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# BULLETIN OF THE

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NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

JANUARY, 1941

No. 80

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# THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

## OFFICERS, 1941

### *Directors:*

Term expiring 1941:	Dr. Franklin Cook Kenneth D. Smith	Howard R. Watkins J. E. Wills
Term expiring 1942:	F. W. Cassebeer Prof. E. O. Essig	Dr. H. H. Everett Dr. R. J. Graves
Term expiring 1943:	W. J. McKee David F. Hall	J. P. Fishburn E. G. Lapham

*President*—Mr. W. J. McKee, 45 Kenwood Ave., Worcester, Mass.

*Vice-President*—Mr. D. F. Hall, 809 Central Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

*Secretary*—Mr. Howard R. Watkins, 821 Washington Loan and Trust Bldg., Washington, D. C.

*Treasurer*—Mr. J. P. Fishburn, Box 2531, Roanoke, Va.

*Editor*—F. W. Cassebeer, 953 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

### *Regional Vice-Presidents—*

1. Dr. J. R. Harrison, Tufts College, Medford, Mass.
2. Kenneth D. Smith, Benedict Road, Dongan Hills, Staten Island, N. Y.
3. John Dolman, Jr., 304 Vassar Ave., Swarthmore, Pa.
4. J. Marion Shull, 207 Raymond St., Chevy Chase, Md.
5. Mr. T. N. Webb, Durham, N. C.
6. Mrs. Silas B. Waters, 2005 Edgecliff Point, Cincinnati, Ohio.
7. Mr. Geddes Douglas, 440 Chestnut Street, Nashville, Tenn.
8. Mrs. W. F. Roecker, 3319 North 14th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
9. Dr. Franklin Cook, 636 Church St., Evanston, Ill.
10. Frank E. Chowning, 2110 Country Club Lane, Little Rock, Ark.
11. Dr. C. W. Hungerford, 514 East C St., Moscow, Idaho.
- 12.
13. Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge, Silverton, Ore.
14. Mrs. G. G. Pollock, 1341 45th St., Sacramento, Calif.
15. Mrs. Lena M. Lothrop, 3205 Poplar Blvd., Alhambra, Calif.
16. W. E. Saunders, London, Ontario, Canada.

### *Chairmen of Committees:*

*Scientific*—Dr. A. E. Waller, 210 Stanbery Ave., Bexley, Columbus, Ohio.

*Election*—Dr. C. Stuart Gager, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Membership and Publicity*—Mr. W. J. McKee, 45 Kenwood Avenue, Worcester, Mass.

*Registration*—C. E. F. Gersdorff, 1825 No. Capitol St., Washington, D. C.

*Exhibition*—Mrs. Ralph E. Ricker, 1516 Ross St., Sioux City, Iowa.

*Recorder of Introductions and Bibliography*—Mrs. W. H. Peckham, The Lodge, Skylands Farm, Sloatsburg, N. Y.

*Awards*—Mr. J. E. Wills, Belle Meade Blvd., Nashville, Tenn.

*Japanese Iris*—Dr. George M. Reed, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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**LANTERN SLIDES**—Rental Fee (to members) \$5.00. Apply to  
Mrs. P. E. Corey, 7 Cliff Street, Winchester, Mass.

## THE EDITOR'S BULLETIN BOARD

■ As usual this first BULLETIN of the new year contains the annual reports of the president, treasurer, and regional vice-presidents. It also has the list of 1940 introductions as compiled by Mrs. Peckham, but does not include the names of the varieties registered in 1940. It is expected, however, that Mr. Gersdorff's carefully prepared report of the new registrations and corrections will form the basis of the First Supplement to the *1939 Iris Check List* to be published in the near future.

Many members of the Society have admired the Japanese iris but have put off the purchasing of them for the lack of familiarity with the names of the leading varieties. Mrs. Nesmith presents a list of worthwhile varieties in this iris group in her article about Japanese iris for our gardens.

Mr. Earl Evans writes about his breeding experiences and gives a list of resolutions that he has laid down for himself. In another article Mrs. Arbuckle calls our attention to the many interesting iris species that are native to North America, many of which would make fine additions to worthwhile iris collections.

While this number may seem like an anomaly, the editor still recognizes the importance of publishing the BULLETIN on time. He therefore deplores the circumstances which have conspired to delay this issue unduly. The cooperation of the regional vice-presidents in sending in their 1940 reports is gratefully acknowledged.

F. W. CASSEBEER, *Editor.*



*From Kodachrome by F. W. Cassbeer*  
*Angelus, lovely lilac-pink blend*

## DIRECTORS AWARD GOLD MEDAL

Mrs. Peckham Honored for Check List

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### *Board Also Votes Changes in Policy of Awards and Rating System*

■ By unanimous action of the Board of Directors at their December meeting in New York City, Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham was awarded the gold medal of the Society. It was voted in recognition of her tireless efforts in behalf of the Society over a period of many years and particularly for the preparation of the 1939 *Iris Check List*—a stupendous piece of work in itself. Since the inception of the American Iris Society only two previous awards of the gold medal have been made, namely to Miss Grace Sturtevant and to Mr. John C. Wister.

Several important changes in the policy of awards were authorized by the directors with a view to improving this valuable work annually performed by the accredited judges of the Society. The principal changes were as follows:

a) Highly Commended to be an award for unintroduced iris judged either in a garden or at a show. By voting for this award a judge endorses an iris and in effect considers it worthy of introduction.

b) Honorable Mention award is henceforth to be restricted only to introduced iris. The number of votes needed for this award is increased from five to seven, but judges may make 14 recommendations for this honor instead of only 12 as heretofore.

c) Award of Merit. A tall bearded iris must now have 10 votes to receive this award instead of seven as before, while only 7 votes will still be required for other types of iris.

d) The words "stated price" have been deleted from the regulations governing the year of introduction. Introduction now simply consists of offering an iris for general sale in a catalogue, list, advertisement, or notice in A. I. S. BULLETINS.

e) Rating System. It was decided to change the score of points

for rating iris and to adopt in its main principles the scoring system proposed by Mr. Geddes Douglas in BULLETIN No. 77. The details of the final form of this plan were left to the Awards Committee.

It is planned to publish in the April BULLETIN a complete statement of the 1941 Policy of Awards and Rating System embodying all the changes that have been made.

The Board of Directors voted the re-election of all of the present officers of the Society as follows: Wm. J. McKee, president; D. F. Hall, vice-president; J. P. Fishburn, treasurer; and H. R. Watkins, secretary. F. W. Cassebeer was continued as editor for another year.

Funds were voted to the Slides Committee and a repetition of the color slide contest for 1941 was authorized. The president has appointed Mrs. P. E. Corey to succeed the late Mrs. Herman E. Lewis as chairman of the committee.

Recognizing the growing interest in Japanese iris, the directors authorized the president to form a special committee to provide adequate representation for this iris section, especially in the preparation of articles for the BULLETIN. Dr. George M. Reed of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been asked to serve as chairman.

Also of importance was the action of the directors in authorizing the creation of two new medals, one for distinguished service to the Society and the other for outstanding achievements in hybridizing. It was felt that the American Iris Society has long been in need of awards of this kind and that these new medals would be the best solution. The design and final form of the medals was referred to a committee to be reported on at the next meeting of the board. A proposal for engraved certificates for Awards of Merit was likewise approved, and their design is also to be decided later.

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## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR 1940

WILLIAM J. McKEE

■ THE YEAR 1940 marks the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of the American Iris Society, and while 20 years is a short period of time in history, it appears to cover a much longer period when associated with the accomplishments of the Society during that time. I do feel that the record of the Society throughout these years is one we may review with pride. The steady growth of the Society, the constant extension of its activities, the continued increase in interest, the recording of history and data on iris through our BULLETIN and *Check List*, and the improvement in the flower it sponsors, are evidence that the American Iris Society record for the first 20 years of its existence is a most remarkable one.

I am pleased to report that the year 1940 was a prosperous one for the Society. Our Treasurer's report shows that the Society is in good, sound financial condition. Our membership increased substantially during the year, and reports from the regional vice-presidents and committee chairmen indicate increased interest in the various activities in the Society.

The most outstanding accomplishment of the year was the publication of the *Alphabetical Iris Check List*, a book of 600 pages containing a vast amount of data of interest to all irisarians. In publishing this volume, the Society has made a real contribution to gardening literature, and this work is likely to remain for all time a basic reference book on early American iris.

The midsummer Annual Meeting held at Chicago during the early part of June and the iris trek in connection with this meeting were easily the high spots of the year's activities and brought together a large delegation of members from many regions of the country. Judging from the opinions expressed by the members who attended these meetings, they are evidently becoming more popular, being an increasingly greater source of stimulation in iris affairs.

A visit to the iris gardens in various sections of the country indicates that the wave of hybridizing is rolling on and gaining in momentum. A larger number of fine varieties are being created

each year, the results of which are evidenced by the ratings submitted by the accredited judges. To the keen observer, however, it is quite apparent that while many fine varieties are being created, there are still a very small number of what might be classed as "particularly outstanding varieties" created yearly. This would seemingly indicate that future improvement will be slower and steadier than the rapid and more spectacular advancement made during the last 20 years.

With the uncertain conditions existing throughout the world at the beginning of the new year, the question naturally arises, "How about the future; will interest in iris and the Society increase?" Answers from members to this question would be interesting. One thing is certain, the question would have to be answered individually. If the love of gardens and gardening and, noblest of all, the deep interest and specialization in one particular flower, is strong enough, then the answer is clear, and the gardener will look to his garden and his iris and find in them a source of pleasure, contentment, and relaxation from present-day problems, and his or her interest in iris and the Society will increase.

The Society has decided to broaden its activities to further the interest in Japanese iris through the establishment of a Special Japanese Iris Section Committee, with Dr. George M. Reed, of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, as its chairman. A large number of our members are interested in Japanese iris, and the special committee will endeavor to carry out plans that will straighten out some of the present problems regarding conflicts in names of Japanese iris and also publish in the BULLETIN descriptions of standard varieties and their performance in the various regions.

The Society suffered a severe loss in the passing, on December 12, 1940, of Mrs. Herman E. Lewis, who served as regional vice-president of Region No. 1 and as chairman of the slide committee.

I wish to pay tribute to the loyalty and ability of the officers, directors, editor, regional vice-presidents, tabulator, committee members, and accredited judges, who have all donated their services so generously for the advancement of the Society's interests during the past year.

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## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

JUNIUS P. FISHBURN

### AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

#### Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements For the Year Ended November 30, 1940

##### SUMMARY

	<i>Operating</i> <i>Fund</i>	<i>Life</i> <i>Fund</i>	<i>Total</i>
Balance December 1, 1939	\$ 888.85	\$2,736.18	\$3,625.03
Add :			
Receipts	4,454.54	326.91	4,781.45
Transfer from Life Fund	2,152.51	-----	2,152.51
	-----	-----	-----
Total	\$7,495.90	\$3,063.09	\$10,558.99
	-----	-----	-----
Deduct :			
Disbursements	\$6,499.60	-----	\$6,499.60
Transfer to Operating Fund	-----	2,152.51	2,152.51
	-----	-----	-----
Total deductions	\$6,499.60	\$2,152.51	\$8,652.11
	-----	-----	-----
Balances November 30, 1940	\$ 996.30	\$ 910.58	\$1,906.88
	-----	-----	-----

NOTE: Transfer from Life Fund to Operating Fund represents withdrawal from savings account to cover part of cost of publishing *Check List*.

##### DETAILS

###### *Operating Fund:*

###### Receipts :

Annual memberships	-----	\$2,927.50
Triennial memberships	-----	119.00
Sustaining memberships	-----	20.00
Life memberships	-----	100.00

Collected for memberships in English Iris Society	24.55
Sale of back BULLETINS	108.00
Advertising	172.25
Sale of "Dykes on Irises"	22.60
Sale of English Iris Society bulletins	5.50
	_____
Total receipts—ordinary sources	\$3,499.40
Sale of <i>Check List</i>	955.14
	_____
Total receipts	\$4,454.54
	_____

*Disbursements:*

Publishing BULLETIN	\$1,840.83
Salary—editor of BULLETIN	200.00
Printing, stationery, postage and office supplies	306.34
Stenographic services	677.50
Rent	165.00
Expenses of committees:	
Awards committee	80.25
Registration committee	31.03
Exhibition committee	12.73
Traveling expense—Secretary	63.42
Traveling expense—Editor of BULLETIN	13.42
Medals	70.49
Telegrams	.95
Petty cash disbursements	15.00
Advertising	36.60
Cost of "Dykes on Irises"	65.93
Exchange deducted on Canadian checks	2.15
	_____
Total ordinary disbursements	3,581.64
Printing <i>Check List</i>	2,852.51
Other expenses— <i>Check List</i>	65.45
	_____
Total disbursements	\$6,499.60
	_____

*Life Fund:*

Receipts:

Interest on bonds.....	\$ 296.50
Interest on savings account.....	30.41
	<hr/>
Total receipts .....	\$ 326.91
	<hr/>

NOTE: The Operating Fund and Life Fund are administered through a checking account and savings account, respectively, both with the First National Exchange Bank, Roanoke, Virginia.

INVESTMENTS—LIFE FUND, AT NOVEMBER 30, 1940

<i>Description</i>	<i>Face Value</i>
The Cleveland Union Terminals Company:	
First mortgage sinking fund gold bond, 5½%, series A, due April 1, 1972.....	\$1,000.00
Home Owners' Loan Corporation:	
3% series A bonds due May 1, 1952/44.....	1,950.00
Northern Pacific Railway Company:	
Refunding and improvement mortgage bond, 6%, due July 1, 2047.....	500.00
Paramount Broadway Corporation (Paramount Building):	
First mortgage sinking fund loan certificate, 3%, due February 15, 1955.....	1,000.00
U. S. A. 2¾% Treasury bonds due June 15, 1954/51.....	2,000.00
U. S. A. 3⅓% Treasury bonds due June 15, 1949/46.....	1,500.00
U. S. A. 3¼% Treasury bonds due April 15, 1946/44.....	650.00
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$8,600.00
	<hr/>

NOTE: The above securities were in safekeeping at the First National Exchange Bank, Roanoke, Virginia, at the time of our examination. All interest receivable to November 30, 1940, had been collected.

## REPORTS OF REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

### REGION 1

#### Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island

No report, due to death of regional vice-president, Mrs. Herman E. Lewis.

### REGION 2

#### New York

KENNETH D. SMITH, *Staten Island, N. Y.*

THE 1940 IRIS SHOW, sponsored by the American Iris Society and the Horticultural Society of New York, was scheduled for May 28 at "Gardens on Parade," New York World's Fair, but due to unseasonable weather, it was adjourned until May 31st. The judges were Mrs. Silas B. Waters, of Cincinnati; Mrs. Thomas Nesmith, of Lowell, Mass.; and Mrs. Ethel Anson S. Peckham of Sloatsburg, N. Y., all of whom represented the American Iris Society, and Mr. James G. Esson, of Great Neck, L. I., who represented "Gardens on Parade" and the Horticultural Society of New York.

The three medals of the Horticultural Society of New York were awarded as sweepstakes prizes. F. W. Cassebeer won the Gold Medal with 46 points, Kenneth D. Smith, the Silver Medal with 45 points, and Elizabeth McKnight, of Blauvelt, N. Y., the Bronze Medal with 18½ points.

The Silver Medal of the American Iris Society, awarded for the best two stalks in the specimen class, was won by F. W. Cassebeer, with two exceptionally well-grown stalks of Cayeux's MARINELLA. The Bronze Medal for the runner-up was awarded to K. D. Smith for two stalks of Gage's DAMERINE. This year it was decided to have two stalks of one named variety instead of one in the specimen class, which made a much more attractive display. However, it was rather difficult for the judges to select the winners, and I believe, in the future, that a class calling for one stalk would be the better idea.

Exhibitors were forced to feats of ingenuity in order to exhibit because of the late season. Colonel George Pollock Bush, of Mary-

land, had his bloom come on so early that he was forced to store them in cold storage. My garden, located on a hill very near the Atlantic Ocean, had no sunlight for a week and extremely damp fog all the time, which kept the bloom from opening. As the only iris open in my garden were PURPLE GIANT and MARVELOUS, it was necessary for me to cut the stalks in bud, place them in my small greenhouse, which was heated, and use 1,000 watts of electricity on them so that they would open. Other exhibitors whose gardens were inland did not have the fog, but their bloom was also retarded.

On the whole, it was a successful exhibit, and arrangements have already been made to hold the 1941 show in the rooms of the Horticultural Society of New York at 598 Madison Avenue, on May 28 and 29, 1941. Believing that more garden club members should be interested in iris, a new class has been added to our schedule, as follows: "*Display for effect of any type of iris of not more than 12 stalks. No other material may be used, except other foliage is permitted. Exhibitor must supply own container.*" This new class is open only to members of garden clubs, and it is hoped that by awarding substantial prizes consisting of newer iris rhizomes, the garden club members will become more interested.

Much has been said of doing away with all shows. In the New York Region they are a definite asset, and many people are able to see the newer varieties which ordinarily would not be possible. It is surprising to see the visitors making notes of the varieties which interest them, and that means future sales by some commercial grower. Naturally, a show means hard work, not only for the exhibitors but for the sponsors, and I trust they will never be done away with.

#### REGION 3

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware

No report.

#### REGION 4

Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia

J. MARION SHULL, *Chevy Chase, Md.*

IF THE IRIS gardener and the Weather Man would only get together in a better spirit of cooperation, it might redound to the honor and glory of all concerned and save the show chairman a few untimely gray hairs. Region 4 set the ball rolling as early as May

15 after having set the 10th and having had to postpone the show on account of the lateness of the season.

A local iris group for Norfolk, Va., and its immediate surroundings had been gathered together during the winter under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr. Van Arsdale, and on May 15 they staged in the Monticello Hotel a very creditable display for a first attempt.

Naturally, there was lack of experience on the part of exhibitors, leading as always to the inclusion of some less desirable material, but even older groups do not always steer clear of this difficulty, and sometimes weather conditions damage the best material at a critical moment. It takes the new exhibitor some time to learn that a specimen stalk with three flowers open, one of which is beginning to collapse with age, or which is injured with rough handling, will necessarily rate lower with the judges than would the same stalk with the damaged or spent flower removed. By removal of the unsatisfactory bloom, the stalk might easily become first in its class instead of a poor third, or possibly out of the running altogether. As this was the first iris show for Norfolk and this group of enthusiasts, the judges, Secretary Watkins, and I, felt the best interests of the Society would be conserved by a degree of leniency not properly granted to a more experienced group, and it is to be hoped that the educational value of this leniency and the explanations that went with it will result in a still better display another year.

Quite to be expected also from a new local society was the submission of a great deal too many "new" seedlings. The average quality of these was good, but there was nothing really outstanding, none that could not have been duplicated several times over among named varieties already easily available. No doubt the hopeful exhibitors of these seedlings felt some disappointment that none out of so many was singled out for a "Highly Commended" award, but to inflict a certain amount of such disappointment is just a part of the unhappy lot of a judge, whose feelings are perhaps just as sensitive but whose duty of the moment must over-ride any such gentler promptings.

Despite these things, Norfolk is to be congratulated, and I hope better and better iris shows will be staged as the local Society grows in numbers and experience. It has made a good start.

Richmond's big flower show, with a special iris section, came the following day, May 16, with Dr. Earle B. White, of Kensington, and myself serving as the iris judges. Unfortunately, a terrific down-

pour during the night and all the morning greatly curtailed the collection of material for display, and much that did come in was so badly damaged that there was no real competition. Other flowers less fragile than the iris, or such as could be gathered and staged longer in advance, still provided a beautiful spectacle for the flower-loving people of the city. But the iris was almost a total loss and a great but unavoidable disappointment in an area where this flower normally does so well.

The next iris event of the Region was staged by the Woodridge Garden Club in the District of Columbia. Here, too, the show had to be postponed owing to a belated spring, but it was lucky in its later date to strike favorable weather and material in excellent condition.

This year the Woodridge Club had wisely departed from its former practice and staged its show earlier in the day so that it could be seen by natural daylight as well as by night.

“Best stalk” of the show went to SAN FRANCISCO, with JELLOWAY as runner-up, both in the non-competitive display set up by Winn T. Simmons, of Takoma Park.

Mr. Simmons and Mr. J. B. Parker were both represented by some very choice new seedlings. Two Simmons seedlings, AC X J and POLAR SUN, scoring 82 and 85 respectively, were both given HC’s. Similar awards were also given to Parker’s No. 2523, which scored 90, and to No. 2534, at 85. Both the Parker seedlings were yellows, the higher scored one not quite so purely all yellow as JELLOWAY but displaying better substance, a very smooth flower of fine form. Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Culpepper, and I were the judges here. The Simmons seedlings are blends leaning mostly toward yellow.

The Takoma Park Iris Show, which has for a number of years been the principal iris show of the Region, was once again unfortunate in finding the Weather Man very uncooperative, its choicest material having been spoiled by rain just when it should have been gathered for the show. Competition was too slight to warrant recording winning varieties. One fine tall white exhibited by Mrs. C. H. Popenoe was awarded an HC.

This year I did not have the pleasure of visiting Mr. Doub’s garden at Hagerstown, but I did enjoy a visit to Mr. Culpepper’s garden which, as usual, presented some of the best-grown material hereabouts. Much of the Watkins garden at Somerset had been

reset but his is still the one place about Washington where many of the very new things may be seen.

I saw only the first half of my own garden here at Chevy Chase because my heart was set on seeing the midwestern gardens. Ordinarily my garden would be about through by that time, but this year it was so late that I had to leave it before the last of new seedlings had even begun to bloom, and up to that time there had been such continuous rain that no successful pollenizing could be effected. By the time I got back from Indiana and Illinois, some two weeks later, the season here was over and I awoke to the fact that for the first time in over 25 years I had made no iris seed! But a most wonderful time I had with the Williamsons, the Cooks, and a numbers of others was compensation. And I'm tempted to step out of Region 4 and append here a brief account of my iris trek of last spring as perhaps more fitting than to treat it separately.

It was a pleasant drive over the green hills and through the mountains of Maryland and Pennsylvania, and then the lush fields of central Ohio with its clean dark soil and long straight rows of young corn stretching its first leaves in the spring sunshine—and then there was always the rainbow promise at journey's end.

The first real iris stop of any consequence was at Bluffton, Ind., where for four days I was never for long out of the Williamson or the Paul Cook gardens. Flowers were in their early stage of bloom, and the weather was perfect. For the first time, I was seeing some of the Williamson varieties in mass instead of by one's and two's or in small clumps, as in my own garden. The lovely blue of a whole broad row of *CASTALIA*, the splendid clean contrast of *WABASH*, the sunshine of *SHAWANO*, *AMIGO* used for table decoration—these are only a few of the glowing pictures carried away in memory—but lovelier than all these was the charming mistress of it all.

There are many delightful things both old and new in the Williamson Longfield garden, and there is, in addition, a collection of real gems in the more intimate garden in back of the house where Mary plants the choice things she wants to work with for the year and where of a morning she plies her trade of honest marriage broker to the iris. Early riser as I am by habit, each morning even before their mistress was astir, and maybe again and again before dusk, I saw seedlings of *WABASH* striving to be better than their parent, but succeeding only in being somewhat different;

SABLE and other seedlings from Paul Cook; SHAWANO and MOUNT CLOUD, BRIDAL VEIL and CITY OF LINCOLN, CHINA MAID and GOLDEN HIND, to mention only a few at random.

But of all the gardens I visited, that of Paul Cook at Bluffton seemed to me to be turning out the most significant work. He is perhaps the most to be envied of all iris breeders, first in having had the inspiration of close association with the Williamsons and Longfield, and then to be so fortunate in his regular apportionment of labor to leisure. More of his things should be going out into other people's gardens, but he worships at the shrine of perfectionism, always seeing some added grace to hunger for, and so is slow of consent, resistant to persuasion.

Through Paul Cook's kindness, I also enjoyed visiting at Fort Wayne and Elkhart. Mr. Riedel at Fort Wayne still cherishes many of the older varieties inherited from the late Franklin B. Mead's garden nearby, and still produces new seedlings of his own. The Lapham gardens exhibited some superb things, but in his pursuit of the so-called "pinks" and "reds," he has fathered a dozen or so, any one of which would be worthy of introduction, but of which only one should be introduced!

In the gardens in or near Evanston, I had the misfortune to arrive at Dr. Cook's garden on the last bus and we were hustled away too soon to do justice either to seeing things or to taking notes, but I must record an impression of something unique in iris coloring in a Loomis seedling out of his "Sea Shell," more sea-shelly in color than its parent, which I am told may not carry that appropriate name since it is already pre-empted—by something probably not half so deserving of the name.

As a climax, there were the Hall gardens where it was no longer a question of outstanding varieties. One could only say that the whole garden was outstanding. This must be set down to a happy combination of new or unspent soil and highly skilled gardening. Gardens like this could do the Society a great service if they would grow a sprinkling of the best older varieties among the new ones, giving them the same superb growing conditions and care. Then members could better judge of how much real progress has been made instead of blindly discounting, with or without justification. I could not escape questioning for myself just how this or that magnificent thing would behave in my poorer and long-used Maryland soil. Everything was just a little too good to believe!

## REGION 5

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

T. N. WEBB, *Durham, N. C.*

THE 1940 IRIS season was a very unusual one in this region. There was snow, rain, and hail during the time the iris were at their height. In spite of the weather, some varieties came through with flying colors. Among the newer things that were outstanding, SNOW FLURRY probably took first place. As it flowered here, it lived up to everything that had been said of it on the West Coast. BLUE SPIRE also made a good showing, as did GREAT LAKES, LIGHT-HOUSE, LOUVOIS, and PLURABELLE. GUDRUN, which has usually been low with us, made unusually strong, long, stalks. GOLDEN HIND as it bloomed in my garden was well worth growing. This is the first time I have seen anything in this iris except its color.

With the annual meeting being held in Nashville this year, Region 5 wishes to extend an invitation to all members to pay us a visit before the Nashville meeting. Mrs. L. J. Blake, of Spartanburg, S. C., has asked me to say that she will be very glad to have any members who find it possible to visit "Three Oaks." This is probably the outstanding iris collection in this region. Mrs. Blake grows many of the newer iris and has large masses of color from the old standbys. Among her plantings will be found the following:

1. Beds of valuable seedlings, introductions and guest iris from different sections.
2. *Rainbow Path* from drive to woods. Clumps both sides, 250 feet.
3. *Indian Trail*, coppery-red iris with Indian names, starting with REBELLION of Kleinsorge's and ending with TRAIL'S END of Williamson's, but dominated by Chancellor Kirkland's group.
4. *Drift of Gold*—study in modern yellows.
5. *Early Morn*—Color study in modern blends.
6. *Setting Sun*—study in modern reds.
7. Terrace of blue and white iris.
8. Border of modern amoenas.
9. Terrace bordered with modern plicatas, Sass introductions and seedlings.
10. Bed containing valuable collection of oncobreds from Clarence White.

I would also like to extend an invitation to visit the collection of Dr. F. M. Hanes and the Sarah P. Duke Memorial Garden, both of the Duke University Campus, Durham, N. C., as well as my own small planting at Hillsboro, N. C., only 12 miles away.

At one time we had considered the possibility of asking to be included in the iris pilgrimage, but we felt that it might complicate matters as our blooming season is a little earlier than that of Nashville. However, we will be only too glad to open our gardens to any members of the Iris Society and their friends. It would be a great help if anyone who plans to come would drop me a card saying what day he or she plans to be here.

## REGION 6

### Michigan, Ohio, Indiana

MRS. SILAS B. WATERS, *Cincinnati, Ohio*

REGION 6 HAD a representative number of members in attendance for the annual meeting of the American Iris Society in Evanston. They were all enthusiastic over the iris they saw and the gracious hospitality of our hosts and hostesses.

Certainly these annual meetings afford a fine opportunity for the study of new introductions, and the way is opened for cementing old friendships as well as making new ones.

This region has cause to be proud of its various iris groups.

The Detroit Iris Society has been most progressive both in its shows and in the fine culture evidenced in its gardens.

The Columbus Iris Society has for years shown marked interest in growing good iris, and it stages an unusually worthwhile show every other year.

The Cincinnati Iris Guild has stated meetings throughout the year, makes tours to iris plantings, and this year encouraged several new members to affiliate themselves with the American Iris Society.

Since David Hall's clever story told at the banquet in Evanston clearly pointed out that it is always possible to do better, Region 6 hopes to improve on past achievements.

## REGION 7

Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi

GEDDES DOUGLAS, *Nashville, Tenn.*

A FAIR blooming season was recorded throughout Region 7 in 1940. While there was evidence of winter damage to many varieties, the quality of bloom was generally good. The performance of new iris in and around Nashville has already been adequately reported in the July, 1940, BULLETIN by visitors to this city, and there is no need for me to add my comments.

An iris show was held in Chattanooga, Tenn., under the auspices of the American Iris Society. The details of this successful show are contained in the show reports submitted by Mrs. Ricker in the last BULLETIN.

On December 15, 1940, a meeting was held by the Nashville members of the Society to discuss plans for the Annual Meeting this coming May. Mr. J. E. Wills was delegated to be in charge of the registrations, Mr. Connell to be head of the program arrangements for the banquet, and Mr. Stanley Horn was designated to be speaker and toastmaster.

## REGION 8

Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

MRS. W. F. ROECKER, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

THE Wisconsin Iris Society had a fine show, June 7-8th, 1940, despite the late season here. The show was held at Gimbel's Department Store, where the management cooperated in every way. Due to the late season, the number of exhibits was not as large as usual, but Mr. Robert Schreiner's display was much appreciated. A number of fine seedlings were exhibited, and plans for a bigger and better show for next year were started. Several A. I. S. members exhibited and won prizes.

Early in the summer A. I. S. members were asked to report on colorful combinations of iris with other iris, as well as with other flowers. The answers were so meager that no report can be made at this time. However, this questionnaire will be sent out again this summer.

In November the A. I. S. members in this region were invited to attend a joint meeting with the W. I. S. in this city. Dr. Franklin

Cook of Evanston was the speaker, and showed us his lovely slides of iris. He also gave a most interesting and stimulating talk on hybridizing iris to an appreciative audience.

During the time of the A. I. S. meeting, we visited Dr. Cook's garden and Mr. Hall's estate. The iris were such as one expects to see in the celestial fields. Meeting members from other states was an experience we hope to repeat at future iris treks. Other iris gardens visited in Minnesota and in Wisconsin seem to indicate an increasing desire for better and newer varieties. This should stimulate membership in our Society.

The outstanding iris in my own garden this summer was CHINA MAID. This iris stood up well during a hot wind, and during good weather each bloom lasted two whole days. It is impossible to describe adequately the blending of colors—pink, bronze, lilac, a hint of blue, the yellow beard—it was a piece of the rainbow itself. Planted next to SHINING WATERS (which was transplanted there in full bloom), it "stole the show." BLUE PETER had five gorgeous blooming stalks at one time from a one-year rhizome! I shall always have him in my garden. As for BLUE SPIRE, it grew over 4 feet tall, with a strong stem, and huge blue flowers that looked as though they were made of glass. These three iris were planted in September, 1939, and were covered lightly with evergreen branches at Christmas time. They grew exceptionally well the past summer, and we are anticipating a real show this year.

## REGION 9

Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas

DR. FRANKLIN COOK, *Evanston, Illinois*

As hosts to the Society during the 1940 Annual Meeting and pre-convention Pilgrimage, Region 9 felt honored indeed, and to guests who attended, these events spoke for themselves. I have on my desk a heap of letters from East, South and West, expressing appreciation and warm gratitude to the hosts who planned so diligently and carried through a series of iris performances stretching from Lincoln, Neb., to Highland Park, Ill., in almost perfect timing and with sustained interest all along the line. From the start, it was a bold project to even conceive of hitting the peaks of iris bloom over a 600-mile strip in five consecutive days! Dame Nature came

close to upsetting our most prayerful calculations, but with good luck and the unselfishness of our more western regionnaires, who delayed their show in order to bring the guests to Chicago at our peak, we won our race by a hair's breadth, and that was all that was necessary.

The Annual Meeting and Pilgrimage have been written up elsewhere, and reverberations will continue to echo among the iris fraternity from that joyful trek. Region 9 was considered to have put on a program worthy of the Society. That was praise enough.

Membership in the Region has kept on increasing at a substantial rate, giving us twice as many members this year as any other region on the Society's rolls. Of this we are naturally quite proud. We might pass on a few hints as to how we accomplish this. Among our members we have several who take Kodachromes of iris and iris gardens. Once the pictures are shown, these people find themselves in immediate demand as garden club speakers. No more effective "missionary work" could possibly be done. Such speakers are often kept for hours after a lecture answering questions by enthusiastic audiences. Another project that has brought results has been the stimulation of the interest of landscape architects and gardening professionals by starting them in with a few modern iris for their own private gardens. *They* do the rest and will no longer stock a client's new garden with old-time iris! Still a third method is to start a *public* planting somewhere in town, using really modern varieties. Nobody wants to grow an iris in his garden that is vastly superseded in beauty by those growing in the public square!

On November 13, all Society members within hailing distance of Chicago were invited to our annual fall Get-Together Luncheon. This year, Mr. E. G. Lapham came up from Indiana to show us slides and tell us about his progress in creating some of his newer and redder-toned iris, such as RED GLEAM and EDWARD LAPHAM. Modestly disclaiming any knowledge of genetics, he traced the development of some of his reds and quite gave himself away! A delightful speaker—and just watch RED GLEAM. (No charge for the tip.)

Guests at the luncheon unanimously passed a resolution tendering Miss Mary Williamson their congratulations and best wishes upon the award to her in 1940 of the Dykes Medal for WABASH. While on the subject of WABASH, here's what Pilkington writes of it from England, in the current *Iris Year Book*, just off the press.

"This is an absolute masterpiece, and quite the finest amoena imaginable. . . . Standards of snowy whiteness, falls violet with

clear white margins. Flowers of fine form and substance, carried on 42-inch stems. Superb!"

Thus Region 9 finds itself at the end of the year in good corporate health, with an ever-increasing membership, more and more hybridizers added to its ranks, good feeling promoted by active organization, and with memories of an Annual Meeting and Pilgrimage that will live on through the history of the Society until the day when we shall put on a still better one.

## REGION 10

Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana

FRANK E. CHOWNING, *Little Rock, Ark.*

REGION 10 ENJOYED a very splendid season. The gardens of Mr. Walter Vestal in Park Hill, North Little Rock, Ark., were especially fine, and for the first time many seedlings of the late Chancellor Kirkland were in bloom. TOP SERGEANT, a tall, fine red; ROBIN-wood, a distinctive deep copper red bi-color; GOLDEN PHEASANT, a tall blended bi-color with yellow stands and apricot falls, and a splendid new deep yellow were among the high lights. The latter seedling had been given the name of "King's Ransom" before it was discovered that Mr. Milliken had already registered another yellow under that name. A new name has not yet been given this seedling, but regardless of which one is finally selected for it, we believe it to be one of the finest of the latest yellow creations. Its performance here left nothing to be desired. It has large size, unusually good substance, broad segments, fine form, a deep even color without any brown markings, and its branching and height were all satisfactory. Mr. Vestal grows his iris magnificently, and all of Dr. Kirkland's seedlings appeared far finer in the Vestal garden than they had appeared when last seen at the Kirkland garden at Nashville. SONNY BOY, for instance, was much taller and larger flowered than in its own garden.

There were many new things from the different originators, and especially from the Sass gardens. It has been Mr. Vestal's policy from the outset to maintain a very select and representative collection of the newer introductions, and one can see in his garden practically every new introduction that is considered worth while. The garden has been greatly enlarged for the 1941 season, and it is hoped that all Iris lovers in the Southwest will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit this garden during the coming spring.

Shreveport, La., held an iris exhibit in the State Exhibit Building on April 20-21, and the large attendance was an indication of Shreveport's interest in iris. This show was held in cooperation with the American Iris Society and appropriate prizes were awarded. I have asked Mr. William C. Fitzhugh, of Shreveport, to write a special article at a later date with reference to this show.

In addition to attending this iris festival, Mrs. Chowning and I visited Mr. and Mrs. William C. Fitzhugh and enjoyed the beautiful display of iris at their garden, a few miles from Shreveport. This garden was started only two years ago, but has already become well known throughout this section, and in another year or two will easily equal in quantity and quality the best gardens in the South and Southwest. Iris, along with many interesting perennials, are planted on the ten-acre plot with lovely pines forming a background for many of the beds. The Fitzhugh garden contains an unusually complete collection of the Louisiana natives and other beardless types.

One of the pleasant experiences of our trip to Louisiana was a visit made in the company of Mr. Fitzhugh to the Dorman Wild Flower Garden near Shreveport. Mr. Dorman is a brother of Miss Caroline Dorman, the nationally known artist who has so beautifully painted in color the wild iris of Louisiana. Mrs. Dorman has been a lifelong lover of flowers and has gathered in her garden one of the rarest collections of wild flowers to be found in the South. This garden has all of the lovely atmosphere of the wild with little evidence of man's hand in the planting, so skillfully has Mrs. Dorman planted the things that she has collected from far and near.

While the State of Mississippi is outside of Region 10, a visit was made again to the Rubel Gardens at Corinth, Miss., where we were delightfully entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Rubel, and this beautiful garden again enjoyed. We found that Mr. Kenneth D. Smith and Mr. Geddes Douglas had been there the day before, and Mr. Smith has already in a previous article mentioned his visit to this garden.

I have addressed a number of garden clubs during the present year on the subject of iris and have had many communications from different cities in Region 10 asking for information. All of this indicates a still increasing interest, and we find that an increasingly large number of seedlings are being grown by amateurs in this section.

We hope to have a very representative group at Nashville next year.

REGION 11  
Montana, Idaho, Wyoming  
No report.

REGION 12  
Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico  
No report.

REGION 13  
Washington, Oregon  
No report.

REGION 14  
Northern California

MRS. GEORGE G. POLLOCK, *Sacramento, Cal.*

How LIKE a native Californian to excuse any unpleasant weather as "most unusual"! But "unusual" was the weather that Northern California and iris gardens experienced this spring. The constant rains which make Shasta Dam and Friant Dam so necessary some years came as the flower buds were forming, and this excessive moisture was reflected in the gardens in lack of bloom and extensive loss of foliage from leaf spot. Mr. Clarence White has suggested the use of "Mike," a wettable sulphur, and Grasselli's "Spreader Sticker" for leaf spot, and this was an ideal spring to experiment.

SNOW FLURRY proved a perfect iris under these adverse conditions. After hours of heavy rains, the flowers remained uncut and shapely, and the stalks maintained a straight and graceful form. Under the dark skies, the slight tinge of blue was noticeable, but the flower became pure white in a few hours. This is much to be praised for an early white that must experience the hard rains of spring.

The beautiful Salbach gardens also showed the poor growing conditions in lack of blooms on newer eastern introductions, but gave evidence of the success of Mr. Salbach's interest in the seedlings from COPPER LUSTRE. Two of the best were crosses of COPPER LUSTRE and RADIANT, called BROWN BOY and ORANGE FLAME, to be introduced this year. The standards of ORANGE FLAME are golden

orange and the falls, a brilliant coppery red, with the whole garden effect best described as "glowing." The stems are well branched and beautifully balanced, and the variety has proved a free bloomer with rapid increase. ORANGE FLAME will be among the first five of the newer introductions this year. RED VELVET and REDWOOD, Kleinsorge introductions, were on the "must-have" lists of most visitors to these gardens.

Mr. Mitchell, in Berkeley, is continuing his experiments with yellows and yellow plicatas, still seeking that perfect yellow that will eventually have velvet on the falls.

The quality and quantity of blooms exhibited in spring flower shows in Northern California were well above the average this year. Since iris are at their best at the time of larger organized flower shows in this district, iris shows are not held separately, but exhibits of them are incorporated in the larger shows, and growers invite visitors at that time to visit their gardens.

In the Sacramento spring show, the entries were double in number, and competition was very keen. CALIFORNIA GOLD, a splendid exhibition type, won the blue ribbon, with SHINING WATERS a close second. Mrs. Pollock's exhibit of over 400 stalks was not in competition, but proved a splendid opportunity for local enthusiasts to see the newest iris from eastern hybridizers.



*Mrs. Pollock's iris exhibit at the Sacramento 1940 spring show.*

The Oakland Spring Show, with the "Woodland Gardens" as its theme, had magnificently landscaped iris exhibits. Mr. Carl Salbach's exhibit as usual received the "Best in Show" award. A lively interest in iris in that section was shown by several amateurs in competition with the experienced professionals.

All California mourned with iris lovers everywhere the passing of Jeanett Dean on last Thanksgiving. A modest "iris appreciator," as she described herself, she experimented constantly, seeking an iris adapted particularly to mild climates in her Southern California gardens. J. J. DEAN and SAN GABRIEL are lasting proofs of her success.

While these notes rightfully are limited to reports of iris in this district, a letter from a friend in England seems to have such universal interest that it is being included. It is dated June 3, and comes from Runford, Surrey: "The yellow iris that you brought me, CALIFORNIA GOLD, is the best yellow we have seen here, and I am exhibiting it in the Chelsea Flower Show, which will be held as usual, God willing. Another, NARANJA, has bloomed in September for two years. If it blooms at this time again, it will be of a great deal of interest to the English nurserymen, as they feel it will be a new fall blooming variety here."

## REGION 15

### Southern California, Nevada

MRS. LENA M. NORTHROP, *Alhambra, Cal.*

THE ACTIVITIES OF the Southern California group of accredited judges began with a luncheon-meeting Saturday, March 9, at Claremont. Judges, with their wives or husbands, and members of families numbered 18 at this meeting. Rev. Brenan was chosen secretary; his principal duty was to make sure our ratings were all mailed to the tabulator. Cards, on which illustrations of iris had been pasted, were distributed and each took his turn in showing the good and bad points of the pictured iris he held in his hand. Comments from others were encouraged. Mrs. White brought iris paintings of her own to show different types of branching.

As the gathering was on the point of breaking up, someone suggested the formation of a Southern California iris society, not as a substitute for the A.I.S., but as a possible feeder to it. Mr. Giridian was elected president; Mrs. Ruth Milliken, vice-president; Mr.

Cappeller, secretary; and Mrs. Lothrop, advisor. At a later meeting, Mr. C. H. Smith was made treasurer.

It was decided to meet in Redlands on March 23 to rate Mr. White's early hybrids, and we were invited, in spite of protests that a precedent would be established, to lunch with Rev. and Mrs. Brenan.

Seventeen people were present on March 23, and the judges took their duties seriously. While rating an iris, one of our new members looked up and remarked, "When these figures are all set down, they do not tell how I feel about this iris; it seems to me there should be a certain number of points to indicate my personal reaction." This suggestion I pass on, thinking it worth consideration.

During lunch in the charming little Brenan garden, matters pertaining to the new iris society were discussed. The name "Southern California Iris Society," was adopted and it was decided not to limit its interest to iris, but to include all irids excepting some large divisions which are covered by other organizations.

In April the weather turned cold and pogon iris refused to bloom. We did not have any fine showing of flowers—they just dribbled along through the summer, a few stalks at a time. However, some pretense of rating pogons had to be made, so on April 27 the judges visited the gardens of Mr. Giridlian and Mr. Donald Milliken. An invitation to lunch had been received from Mrs. C. S. Milliken and Mrs. Donald Milliken. The ground was cold and damp; there were not a dozen iris to rate at either place, but the roaring open fire in the Milliken home felt good, the lunch was attractive and satisfying, and it was pleasant to be together again. We discussed iris and moved on to the Pasadena Flower Show to see the iris exhibited there. We found them attractively arranged and, considering the season, they made a creditable showing.

On April 22, I attended a small iris show in Hollywood, which would have been much better if iris had bloomed normally. It was made up largely of attractive arrangements featuring iris. There were three commercial exhibits. The spuria seedlings of Mr. Nies were, to me, the high spot of the show.

I have tried to call on the A.I.S. members living in the region and to see as many as possible of the seedling gardens. I hope to cover this better another season.

Mr. and Mrs. White went to Nebraska in June to see the Sass iris and others in that locality. After their return, a Sunday night supper was arranged in Redlands for the A.I.S. judges, and we

heard about the new iris of the Middlewest and saw slides of Mr. White's varieties that had been taken this season. Mrs. White and Mr. Giridlian were instrumental in producing these beautiful slides. At this meeting there was discussion of permanent ratings and how often, in our opinion, symposiums should be held to regulate them. (I do not remember if any two agreed !) Resolutions were drawn asking the board of directors of the A.I.S. to consider giving an annual award to some person who has done outstanding service for the Society or the iris interest.

Our new Southern California Iris Society held its first regular meeting on June 15. At that time there was a membership of 56, and 50 persons were present. All through the summer, without meetings or any effort being made to gain members, the membership continued to grow until it has now passed the hundred mark, with members all the way from San Jose to San Diego.

It occurred to me that a questionnaire similar to the one sponsored by Dr. Cook and reported in BULLETIN No. 70, might be helpful to this district and enlightening to all. With the assistance of Mr. Donald Milliken, this was accomplished. The 35 members in this region returned 21 replies to the questionnaire. A brief resumé follows: there are three commercial growers, each growing about 400 varieties; private growers average 150 varieties; 18 of the 21 who replied grow thousands of seedlings. Ten grow iris because they love the flower, one of whom "tolerates the foliage." Other reasons for growing iris include an "interest in iris breeding," "lives in an iris community," "likes the garden effect," and a breeder of note answers "for the benefit of the iris interest"—a sentiment which I know is sincere.

I asked for lists of best iris seen; for most vigorous and floriferous; for "poor-doers"; and for those that bloom themselves out. Eighty-eight different varieties were mentioned as the finest iris seen, but in my report, I am including only those which were mentioned twice in the four lists. The newer varieties have not been with us long enough to know whether they will prove to be "good-doers" or "poor-doers." Dr. Cook, in commenting on certain California originations (BULLETIN No. 70, page 5), writes, "and those from that state rated poorly would undoubtedly rate the same no matter from what state of the Union they happened to hail, so long as they carried a great proportion of mesopotamica blood." This is where the mesopotamicas are perfectly suited as the lists show.

SAN GABRIEL, introduced 19 years ago, received six votes out of 21 as being one of the finest iris seen in 1940 and ten votes as being most vigorous and floriferous. PURISSIMA (1927) received the same number of votes in both classes, and MAUNA LOA (1926) lacked but one vote of reaching the same mark. All of these are pretty well loaded with "mespo" blood. CHINA MAID is a daughter of MAUNA LOA; SNOW FLURRY is a daughter of PURISSIMA; even SHINING WATERS can be traced back through CALIFORNIA BLUE to CONQUISTADOR and thence to *mesopotamica*. This list should be helpful to California growers.

Variety	Most vigorous		Bloom themselves out	
	Finest iris seen Number of votes	and floriferous Number of votes	Poor-doers Number of votes	Number of votes
AIRY DREAM -----	2	1	0	0
ALTA CALIFORNIA --	0	2	0	0
AMIGO -----	4	0	1	2
ANSWER -----	4	0	0	0
BLUE VELVET -----	0	0	2	0
BROWN BETTY -----	3	0	1	0
CALIFORNIA GOLD --	0	2	1	0
CANYON MISTS -----	0	2	0	0
CHINA MAID -----	17	3	0	0
CHOSSEN -----	11	3	0	0
CHEERIO -----	2	0	1	0
CITY OF LINCOLN --	2	0	0	0
DOGROSE -----	0	3	1	0
EARLY MASS -----	3	2	0	0
ELAN -----	2	1	0	0
FAIR ENOUGH -----	2	2	0	0
FIESTA -----	4	0	0	1
FRIEDA MOHR -----	3	2	2	0
HAPPY DAYS -----	0	2	0	0
JEAN CAYEUX -----	2	0	1	1
LADY PARAMOUNT --	1	4	0	0
LOS ANGELES -----	3	0	1	0
MAUNA LOA -----	6	9	0	0
MELDORIC -----	1	0	2	0
MING YELLOW -----	2	0	0	0
MOROCCO ROSE -----	3	0	0	0
MOUNT CLOUD -----	2	3	0	0
MRS. VALERIE WEST	0	0	0	2
NEON -----	0	0	1	1
NOEL -----	2	0	0	0
ORMOHR -----	4	0	0	0
PERSIA -----	0	2	1	0
PERSUASION -----	2	1	0	0
PINK SATIN -----	1	0	2	0
PLUIE D'OR -----	0	0	2	0
PURISSIMA -----	6	10	0	0
RAMESES -----	0	0	2	0

<i>Variety</i>	<i>Finest iris seen</i> number of votes	<i>Most vigorous and floriferous</i> number of votes	<i>Poor-doers</i> number of votes	<i>Bloom them- selves out</i> number of votes
RED DOUGLASS	3	0	0	0
ROYAL SALUTE	2	4	0	0
RUBEO	0	0	0	2
SAN FRANCISCO	3	3	0	0
SAN GABRIEL	6	10	0	0
SHINING WATERS	10	7	0	0
SIERRA BLUE	2	6	0	0
SIR MICHAEL	0	1	0	1
SNOW FLURRY	9	0	0	0
SOME LOVE	2	0	0	0
SWEET ALIBI	1	4	0	0
WABASH	8	1	0	0
WELCOME	2	3	0	0
YOUNG APRIL	2	0	0	0

The differences of climate in Southern California is shown in the answers to the question of when to plant. The desert areas prefer late fall; where it is not quite so hot, May or October are favored; and other localities, with less heat, June to September.

Depth of planting seems also to depend somewhat on the locality, but all except one think the rhizome should be covered. Without the question being asked, five volunteered that the soil should be ridged.

There is very little iris disease. Ten admit they have some leaf-spot, 12 have had a little rot and five claim to have no disease.

When buying iris, nine consider iris ratings as published in the BULLETINS, and seven do not. Others comment:

“I depend on seeing them.”

“Somewhat, but haven’t much faith in them.”

“No, nor catalogue description either, but buy after seeing them in bloom and checking their behavior in Southern California.”

“No, I buy only after observation, local if possible; otherwise restrict to Pacific Coast iris.”

In answer to the question, “Which is of most value, catalogue descriptions or ratings,” 13 specify ratings, and others comment:

“Neither ratings nor descriptions, but I do value the opinions of Mr. Fishburn and Mr. Gersdorff, who have nothing to sell.”

“Both, with balance probably on descriptions in order to get an idea of color and habit.”

This is the only one who seems to have any faith in catalogue descriptions.

In regard to disposal, 80 per cent destroy surplus and 20 per cent give their surplus away.

In reply to the request for suggestions as to "how the Society can serve you better," one person wants more help regarding landscaping with iris, and color harmony. Another thinks there should be "more consideration of apogons and more thought to garden use by people who know how to design gardens."

One would like to see the Society discourage the use of color plates "for I believe buyers with little knowledge are too often misled."

Other comments of interest are as follows:

"Urge amateurs to buy iris that have been tested in their own locality."

"Publish photographs of new, much-talked-of iris, both close-up and a complete stalk."

"Be more prompt with BULLETINS. Give more information pertaining to iris grown in private gardens."

"Print more 'quarterlies' with personal experiences."

"More signed comments on varieties."

"By making the membership cards smaller. Every woman has to cut them down to fit the pocket in her purse."

From those who are satisfied come the following comments:

"It is of much benefit. Enjoy the West Coast notes."

"The Society is doing remarkably well in the voluntary services of its officials."

"I think the A.I.S. is rendering fine service. If more regional shows were sponsored, it would stimulate interest and influence a growing membership."

"Keep up the good work."

## REGION 16

### Canada

W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ont., Can.*

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS FOR this report are scarce. Members enjoyed their gardens as usual; the Groff garden at Simcoe attracted many visitors, and the few raisers of seedlings congratulated themselves on their successes with that appreciation of their own productions that comes so easily to the specialist in any line of gardening, but nothing outstanding came to my notice. This leaves the present an opportunity to speak of other things.

Why do not iris growers universally grow *I. reticulata* and *I. histrioides*? Perhaps they are rather tricky. They seem to need an alkaline soil; at least, the directions I get from England, where the species are popular, are to the effect that the soil must be light and

contain 20 or 30 per cent of "mortar rubble." I get this stuff from places where the plaster is being taken from the walls or ceiling, and with sand and leaf mould, *I. reticulata* seems satisfied. There are, in England, several hybrid races, more beautiful than the species. These originated, I believe, from crosses between the two species mentioned, which are stated by some authorities to be merely varieties of the same species. Be that as it may, those hybrids are certainly improved strains and worthy to be grown, and their extreme earliness makes all these forms desirable. With me, they are in bloom before the crocus.

The little species *I. lacustris*, which is native to the shores of Lake Huron, is easily grown, and its small flowers are quite alluring. It grows so thickly in places near the lake that one can hardly put his foot down without crushing flowers. A friend sent me a pure white one, but it failed to live.

At the beginning of the season, every grower longs for a good tall flower. CHARMIAN is a good blue and is about 30 inches tall, but is small. Nevertheless, it seems to fill a need. It is a seedling by W. R. Dykes. As the earliest tall iris in my garden, it receives a great deal of appreciation.

No member of our Society likes to see the last of his iris and that accounts for the efforts to produce perpetual bloomers.

Unfortunately, while autumn bloomers may flower in some southern localities, they fail to do so in Canada, and probably in the United States north of Latitude 43°. That fact makes it incumbent on the hybridizers to produce varieties that will bloom later and thus extend the season. Perhaps the very latest one is RAFFET, by Vilmorin, and with it come those peculiar and beautiful varieties, BLACK PRINCE and RICHARD 2ND; with these, and perhaps CHASSEUR, CANDLELIGHT, MME. SEROUGE and SHAH JEHAN, it ought to be possible to produce a few varieties that would bloom as much as two weeks after the general season has closed. I offer this suggestion to our members, feeling that the other fellow needs a job.

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## JAPANESE IRIS FOR OUR GARDENS

MRS. THOMAS NESMITH

■ AFTER THE GLORY of the tall bearded iris has passed, many gardeners consider the flowering season of the iris finished and look to other perennials to continue the succession of bloom in their gardens, entirely overlooking the fact that there are several of the beardless group which continue flowering for a much longer period. Notable are the Japanese iris that commence blooming in late June. With the proper selection of these varieties, you may add greatly to the beauty of your garden.

The Japanese iris are different in shape of flower and form of growth from the bearded group. They have strong sword-like foliage and slender fibrous roots that require more moisture during their growing season.

They are divided into two classes; those called single varieties have short upright standards and large pendant falls, while the double ones have at least six so-called petals that are arranged in such a manner as to form a full horizontal flower. In these the standards are enlarged until they are nearly equal in breadth to the falls and, instead of being upright, they recurve and show their inner surface. The blooms are most resplendent and effective with their range of color from white down through the tones of orchid, lavender, blue, and pink; others with deeper shades of blue, rose-red, blue-purple, and red-purple. Many of the darker varieties have a velvety richness of finish that adds to their beauty and depth of color. A few are flecked or mottled with deeper colors on a lighter background, while others have white or cream petals bordered with deeper color, giving a pleasing contrast. Most of them have great clarity of color and stunning garden effect. The flowers have firm substance, some with a heavy wax-like finish, and others with a glistening sheen that sparkles in the sunlight. Most of the blooms have ruffled petals, and all varieties have a stately beauty that is entirely different from any other form of iris.

I think there has been a lack of appreciation of these beautiful flowers and their value in the garden. This may be due in a measure to the past hopeless confusion in the names of the Japa-

nese iris. A great deal of this confusion has arisen from collections being sent from Japan, in most cases under their true names, but because they are difficult to pronounce, or for other reasons, the names have been changed by the importers until often the different catalogues contain the same varieties but under entirely different names.

Dr. George M. Reed, Curator at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, is untiring in his efforts to straighten out the names, and at the State Institute of Applied Agriculture, Farmingdale, Long Island, N. Y., as well as at the Botanic Garden there are magnificent plantings of the Japanese iris correctly labeled in their chart. If you can go there in early July, you will be able to understand my enthusiasm for them and the feeling I have that they are absolutely essential for succession of iris bloom in the garden. I have spent many happy and enlightening hours in going over these collections with Dr. Reed, and I am indebted to him for acquiring a considerable knowledge of the different varieties and their correct names.

Our editor has asked me to give you a list of desirable varieties with their true names. I do not intend to infer that this list constitutes all the good varieties; the ones I mention are simply very beautiful and well adapted to growing in our gardens.

The single varieties are very graceful, and the following are excellent in every way :

*White and white effect. Single varieties.*

**SNOW MAID.** A tall and well-branched white.

**FORMOSA.** A white of medium height.

**ZAMA-NO-MORI** (*Grove of Zama*). Large petals of white with palest glistening sheen of blue.

**MORNING MIST.** Essentially the same in every way.

**SHINSO-KAJIN** (*Secluded beauty*). Similar to **ZAMA-NO-MORI**, but with darker standards.

**YAMA-YAMA.** White overlaid with flush of palest lavender-blue.

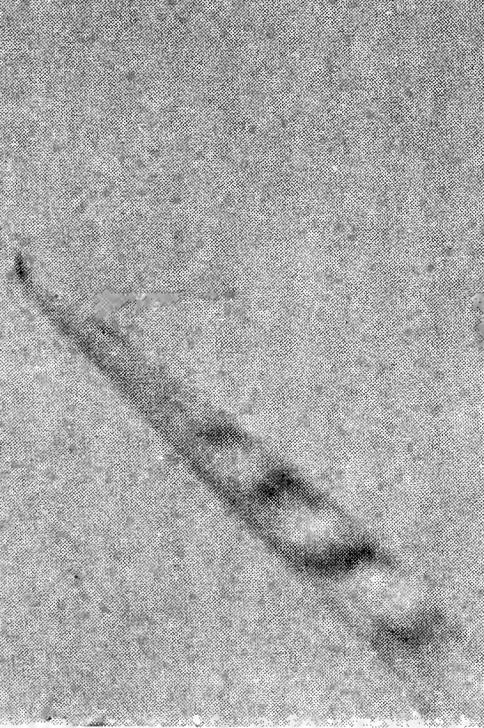
**AIFUKURIN** (*Pale blue trimming*). White with blue border; listed in some catalogues as Edith Wetmore.

**AKAFUKURIN** (*Red border*). White with rose border; listed in some catalogues as Mrs. Harold Brown.

**CAROLINE G. CHILDS.** White veined blue-violet.



*Nishiki-yama  
(Brocade Mountain), with rich  
red-purple edges.*



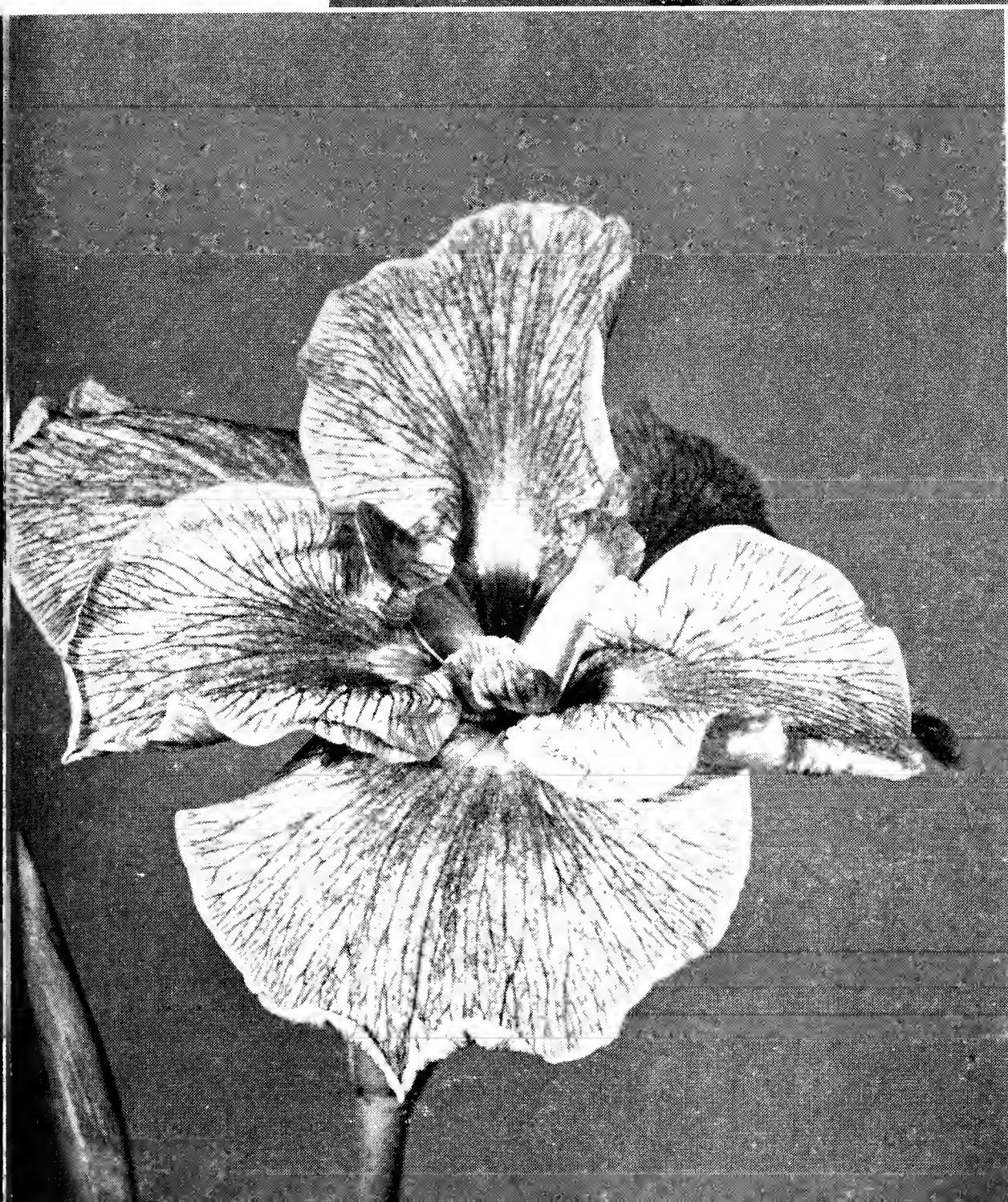
*Aoi-no-uye  
(Princess Holly-  
hock), distinctly  
blue in effect.*



*Iolene, pale blue,  
veined deeper.  
Especially fine.*



*Courtesy of Brook-  
lyn Botanic Garden*



*Hagi-no-umakaze  
(Breezes over the  
clover), lovely  
pinky lavender.*

*Pink and rose-pink effect. Single varieties.*

PINK PROGRESS. A very graceful medium pink self.

HOWO-KAN (*Admired Phoenix*). White background heavily brushed and dotted with rose-pink.

COLLINGWOOD. Very similar to the above and seems the same.

SADARABAD. Light pink with darker flush.

RAINBOW. Rose-pink with blue halo, medium in height.

ETHEL J. MARSHALL. Cream white background flushed pinky violet.

HINODE-ZURU (*Crane at sunrise*). Deep rose veined white. Listed in some catalogues as TOPAZ.

AOI-NO-MATSURI (*Hollyhock festival*). Brighter and more veined than the above.

CARLTON CHILDS. White veined plum-wine.

*Pale lavender and pale blue effect. Single varieties.*

DELLA. Delicate blue-lavender, medium in height.

AMETHYST. Very pale lavender.

PRIAM. Lovely blue showing variation in hues as the flower ages. Listed in some catalogues as WISTER'S FAVORITE.

FRANCES E. CLEVELAND. Very large petals of blue-lavender; crêpe-like and fluted.

SEIRYUTO (*Dragon halberd*). Falls are distinct blue-lavender. Standards pink.

JOHN FRANCIS. Large lavender-mauve shaded with blue.

*Medium clear blues and blue effect. Single varieties.*

AOI-NO-UYE (*Princess Hollyhock*). Distinctly blue in color. Falls dotted and lined clear blue.

IRO-JIMAN (*Proud color*). One of the rarest and finest blues.

KHA-KHAN. White background suffused with blue.

*Dark blue and blue-purple. Single varieties.*

BANGKOK. Purple with a bluish sheen.

OYODO (*Great Yodo*). A lovely blue-purple.

GALATHEE. Veined. Very rich blue.

OKU-BANRI (*Late wonder*). Rare veined blue-purple.

*Rose and red-purple. Single varieties.*

VIOLET BEAUTY. Rich velvety pansy purple.

BETTY JEAN CHILDS. White heavily veined deep orchid purple.

The double varieties are very stunning and the following give a splendid variation of harmonious colors:

*White and white effect. Double varieties.*

BETTY F. HOLMES. A smoothly finished pure white.

GEKKA-NO-NAMI (*Moonlight waves*). Not quite so large as the above.

MRS. J. A. HAYDEN. Large flower of white bordered with pale wistaria violet.

LA FAVORITE. Large, full, drooping flower of white, lightly veined blue.

*Pale blues and lavender. Double varieties.*

KOSUI-NO-IRO (*Color of the lake*). Palest blue changing to cool blue-white. One of the finest.

HEBE. A very lovely pale blue-lavender with creamy center.

ZEPHYR. White flushed with light lavender-blue.

FASCINATION. Pale lavender flecked deeper.

*Medium clear blue and blue effect. Double varieties.*

HELENE. Pale blue veined deeper. Especially fine.

DELLA ROBBIA. Full, smooth flower of blue-lavender.

HERCULE. Similar in color to PRIAM, but very double.

REINE HELENE. Deeper than HELENE and more double.

MARGARET S. HENDRICKSON. A very large ruffled flower of medium blue.

GOSECHI-NO-MAI (*Dance of Gosechi*). Lovely blue-lavender.

*Deeper blue and blue purple. Double varieties.*

KUMO-NO-OBI (*Band of clouds*). Light center with deeper blue-purple border.

KOKI-NO-IRO (*Unusual color*). Deep blue-purple.

AOI-GURUMA (*Hollyhock wheel*). A deep blue-purple with a decidedly blue area at the center.

KONGO-SAN (*Diamond mountain*). Royal blue flushed with deep velvety violet. Listed in some catalogues as Mrs. Robert Bacon.

KUMA-FUNJIN (*Excited bear*). Deep blue-purple very freely flowering. Also listed in some catalogues as KUMA-FWAIN.

*Pink and pink effect. Double varieties.*

GANYMEDE. Full firm flower of delicious pink with blue halo.

HINODE-SAKURA (*Cherry blossoms at sunrise*). Deeper in color and later flowering than GANYMEDE. Listed in same catalogues as Annie Burr Jennings.

HAGI-NO-UMAKAZE (*Breezes over the clover*). Lovely pinky lavender.

CHIGO-KESHO (*Temple chorus child*). White background lightly lined with lavender-pink. Very similar if not the same as NINA.

SATSUKI-BARE (*Clear May sky*). Rosy pink veined deeper.

SAKURA-GAWA (*Cherry stream*). Lovely delicate pink. Listed in some catalogues as Anne Corning.

SAKURA-SAN (*Cherry mountain*). Very rare. Slightly deeper than SAKURA-GAWA.

LIGHT-IN-THE-OPAL. Pale pinky lavender, lighter than GANYMEDE.

#### *Rose red and red-purple. Double varieties.*

MAHOGANY GIANT. Brilliant dark wine-mahogany, tall.

VIOLET GIANT. Huge rich violet shading to rose.

TEMPLETON. A very handsome dark velvety rose-purple.

PLUTON. Dark background heavily flushed with red purple.

NISHIKI-YAMA (*Brocade mountain*). Rich red-purple. Listed in some catalogues as Anna Case Mackay.

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## ADDITIONAL 1940 RATINGS

(Hybrids and Species receiving three or more votes but omitted from previous list of ratings)

Name	Originator	Rating	Number Votes	High	Low
EUPHROSYNE	Washington	89	3	90	88
SOME LOVE	White	90	4	92	89
OYEZ	White	90	3	92	88
ONEONTA	Washington	91	4	94	89
TRUE ENOUGH	White	79	4	88	62
JOCUND	White	87	3	90	85
NELSON OF HILLY	White	94	4	95	91
RONDELEY	White	94	4	95	92

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## RESOLUTIONS ON BREEDING

EARL E. EVANS

■ As I muse over the errors I have made in the past 12 years in raising seedlings, it occurs to me that it might be a good idea to put some very definite conclusions into the form of resolutions and give them especially to those who are scientifically inclined and who are beginners in the fascinating game of breeding. In doing so, I am fully aware that my former neighbor, the Hoosier Philosopher, had his "Abe Martin" say, "It's what we learn after we think we know it all that counts."

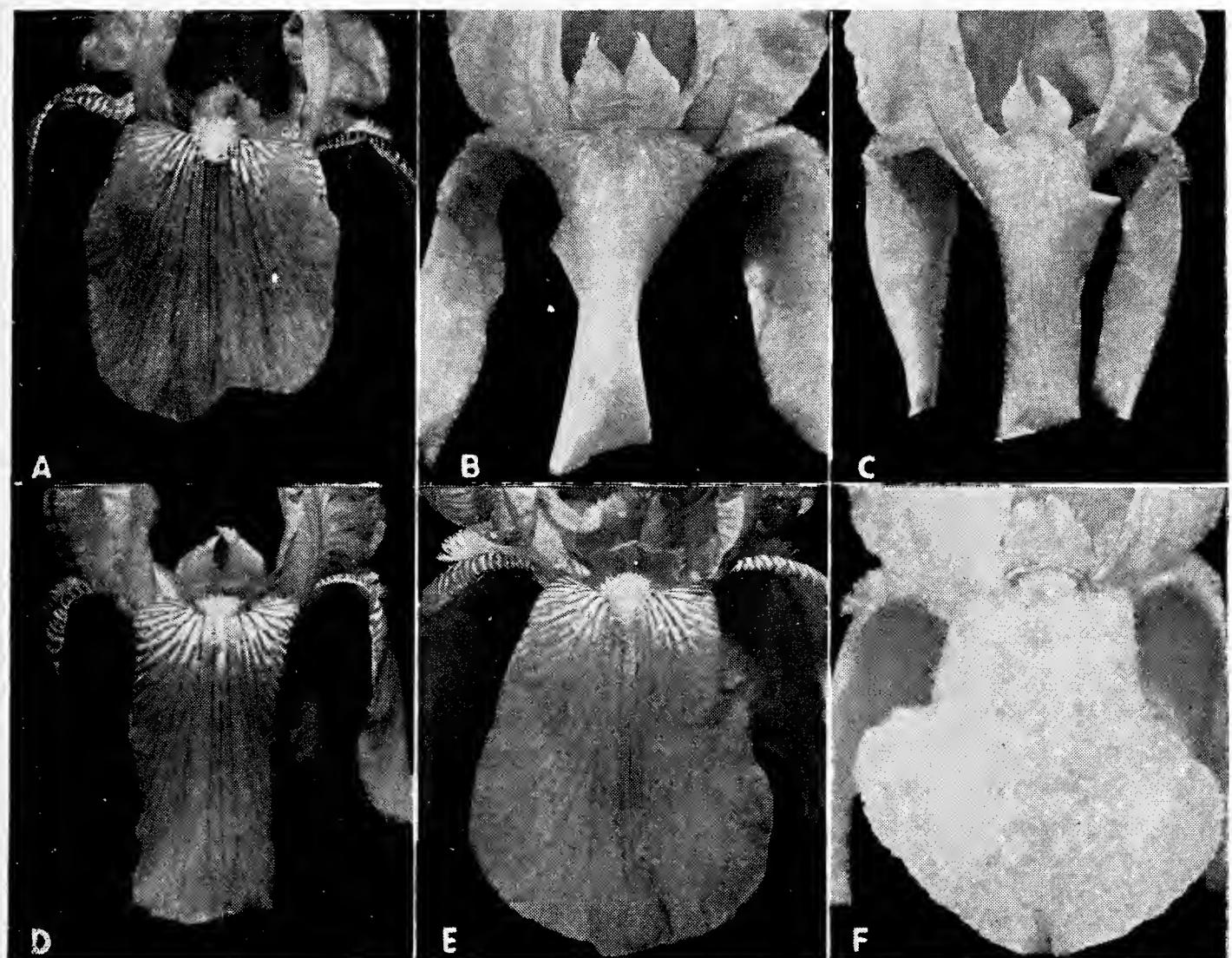
When Mendel crossed a tall pea with a short pea, his parent plants differed in one factor, that of height. The seedlings from such a cross would be the "filial first" generation and called (F1). They would also be monohybrids, because only one factor, that of height, was involved. Although this does not apply to iris, in the case of peas, "tall" dominates over "short" and all the (F1) plants are tall. They all look alike so they belong to the same "phenotype," a word which indicates the external appearance, while the term "genotype" refers to the germinal composition. Second generation (F2) plants derived from crossing brother and sister (F1) plants give two phenotypes, tall and short, and three genotypes. Where large numbers of seedlings are raised, the genotypes come in the following ratio, one pure dominant tall (TT), two impure tall (2Tt) with short recessive in the blood, and one pure recessive short (tt). The formula for these three kinds of plants is written TT-2Tt-tt because when unit characters in crosses seem to cover over and hide opposite traits, thus dominating, they are indicated by capital letters TT for tall, as opposed to lower case letters tt for recessive short. Generally the letter taken is the first one used in spelling the trait. The letter is doubled; one is inherited from pollen, one from the ovary. Rightly understood and used, this possibly is the most powerful implement in the breeder's hands, and later I will demonstrate its use. Here is where I will start my resolutions.

*No. 1. Resolved to use this  $TT$ - $2Tt$ - $tt$  formula wherever possible for definitely planned crosses.*

Let us apply Mendel's discovery to iris. Monohybrids have been explained. Dihybrids are those whose parents differ in two character pairs such as pinched and normal falls, and red and white color. Such a cross would give in the second generation four phenotypes and nine genotypes with 16 different variations. Should the iris parents differ in six unit characters, there are 64 phenotypes, 729 genotypes, and 4,096 kinds of flowers possible. But we are working with the polyhybrid iris, which, if it had as few as 10 factor pairs, would give in the (F<sub>2</sub>) 1,048,576 variations. This should explode the idea that a breeder must keep secret the names of parent plants he is working with, for, as you see, there is only about one chance in over a million of duplicating any specific result in its entirety. In no better way can a man broadcast to the scientific worker that he does not understand the mechanics of breeding than to be secretive about the plants he uses in hybridizing. I have marked on my labels most of my crosses and any visitor is welcome to this information. I grant that many of my crosses are not sufficiently interesting to stimulate in others the urge for duplication, because I would rather give space to solving some kind of problem, such as the morphological question of dominance between a strap fall iris and one of normal width falls, than to have in mind only the desire to create a super iris, although I think I have gone some distance in both fields. Therefore, in the immediate future my procedure will be as follows:

*No. 2. Resolved to work with only one pair of hybrid factors at a time, until their behavior is known.*

Get a plant that is pure, either dominant or recessive for the factor determined upon. A recessive phenotype is always like its genotype—example: the recessive short pea is like its short parent in blood and looks. When it appears, it should be pegged and labeled at once as pure recessive for the factor in question. But to secure the pure dominant is harder and may take one more generation. The solution here is to back-cross to the pure recessive. In this case the unknown tall, which might have short recessive in its blood, is crossed back to the pure short, and if every seedling is tall, one is working with a homozygous plant, but if some are tall and some are short, then the tall parent is heterozygous, containing both extremes for height in its make-up.



*A—Dauntless, the hardy colored parent with normal falls*

*B—A tender white seedling parent with pinched falls, huge size*

*C—*tcP* hardy, white, pinched, seedling (F1)*

*D—*tCP* hardy, color, pinched, seedling (F1)*

*E—*tCp* hardy, color, normal fall, seedling (F1)*

*F—*tcp* hardy, white, normal fall, seedling (F1)*

*NOTE: (F1) is used here in the sense that it is the first generation of this cross.*

*No. 3. Resolved to discover and list everything possible that is dominant and recessive.*

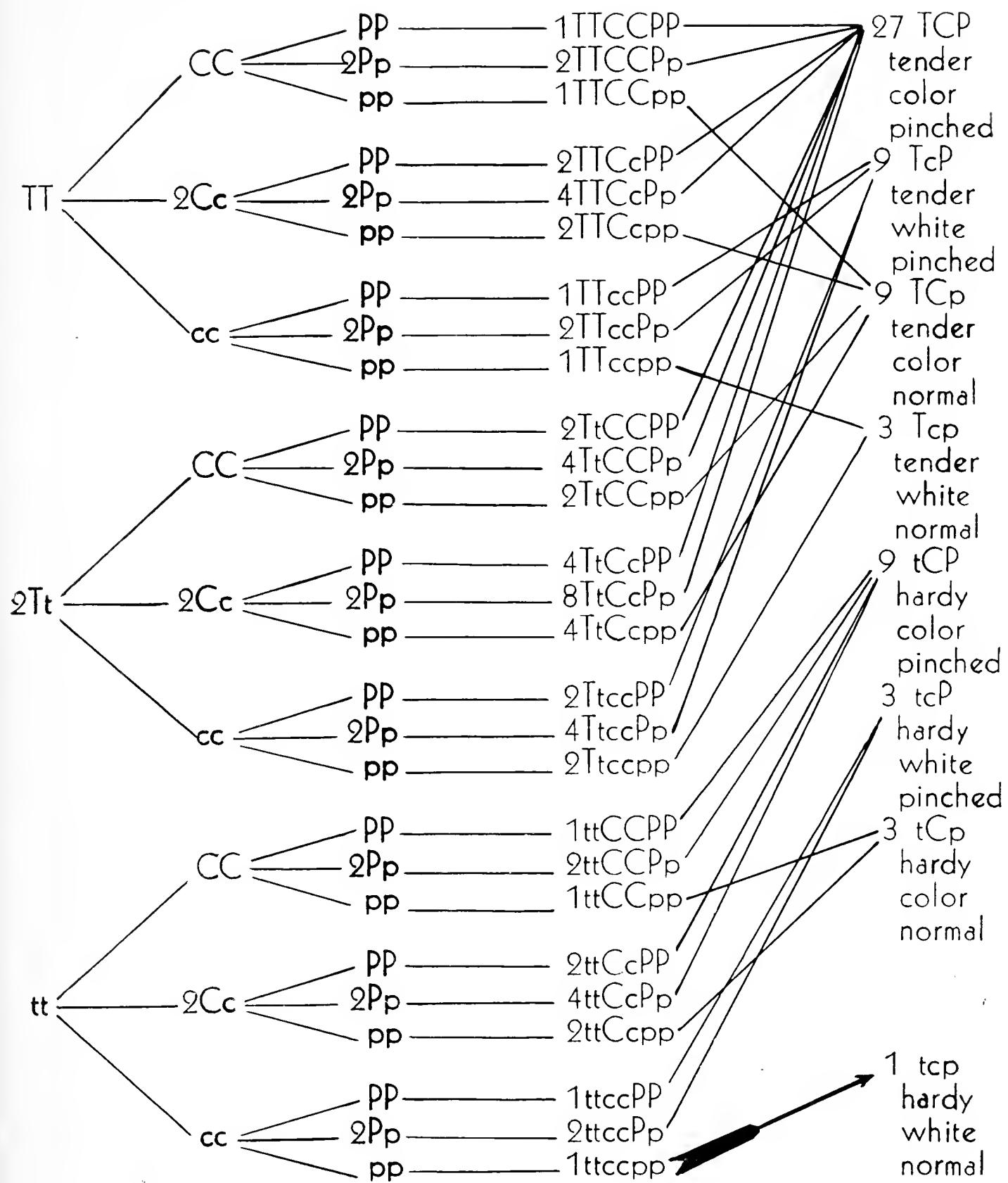
Perhaps you say, "How do I know what is dominant and recessive in iris?" If you do not, and if the American Iris Society does not, that is an indictment and a sad admission of lack of scientifically planned crosses. Although I am not positive, I believe that I have made enough experiments to say that the following pairs behave in this manner.

<i>Dominant</i>	<i>Recessive</i>
Red	White
Pink	White
Blue	White
Yellow	White
Blue, Pink, Red	Variegata
Strap Fall	Normal Fall
Pinched Fall	Normal Fall
Tender	Hardy
Completely Colored	White Margin

It ought to be possible to buy a 48-chromosome plant that is pure for some one color (there are exceptions), and for our problem, we will choose white, which is recessive. If it is pure for white we could even countenance a bad defect, say pinched falls, which seem to be dominant over normal falls. Later we will work out a scheme on paper for crossing this pure white having pinched falls with a red having normal falls. The two traits are color CC and pinched falls PP, so applying resolution No. 1, we have CC-2Cc-cc and PP-2Pp-pp, CC stands for color, cc for lack of color or white, PP pinched falls and pp the recessive normal falls.

*No. 4. Resolved to practice self-fertilization in the effort to separate pure or homozygous plants.*

For instance, one could put the pollen of HAPPY DAYS on its own stigma. In the (F1) seedlings of this cross, discard all the blue, red, or white—in fact, everything except the yellow plants which are again self-pollinated—and finally one will be found that, when self-fertilized, will give nothing but yellow seedlings. That plant should be saved and marked pure yellow. Some plants set no seed, others do not have fertile pollen, so this plan can not be worked with every plant. PURISSIMA is this type—it could not be self-fertilized—but there are many whites that are fertile both ways. I once crossed SEMINOLE with its own pollen to separate the red.



The seedlings came in the proportion of one red to three blues. Blue in the blood might hinder the creation of a red iris. The red was a very small plant with a low chromosome count and an improvement in red color.

*No. 5. Resolved to work with high chromosome count plants, that is, at least 48, unless the goal is small size.*

I wasted several years trying to build a super-size pink from parents of 24 chromosomes.

*No. 6. Resolved to continue breeding until the second generation when in doubt.*

(F1) plants may not reach the goal, especially if the quality aimed for is recessive and hidden by dominant traits. I believe that more than half the desirable things from the iris fancier's viewpoint are recessive. There would be much less mystery if all the ideal things dominated in the (F1) cross.

*No. 7. Resolved never to be afraid to cross desirable flowers with undesirable if it will serve one's purpose to use the good of both.*

PURISSIMA is a wonderful flower, but it is tender. Let us imagine that we have developed a tender pure recessive white seedling, similar and as fine as PURISSIMA, except that it has pinched falls (See illustration B). Our goal is a hardy white with normal falls, so we will cross with a flower which is strong where the white is weak. DAUNTLESS (photograph A) is such a plant. Recalling the formula used for color and pinched falls, let us add the letters required to represent the genes that differ in the two parents, for tender and hardy, TT-2Tt-*tt*. This is a trihybrid mating, because tenderness, color, and pinched falls are dealt with. It may be planned algebraically, by the checkerboard plan, or by the bracket system. As this last seems most practical to me, it will be used in the demonstration. It is just a scheme to find all the genotypes and all the phenotypes. In the first vertical column the tender formula is written once, in the second vertical column the color formula is repeated three times, and in the third column the pinched formula is written nine times. To find the various combinations in the genotype column, make a trip starting with TT, go up to CC and on through PP, add everything collected on the journey and write down TTCCPP. Do the same immediately below, and so on. The vertical phenotype column is composed of half the letters, using the dominant always whenever it occurs in the pair, and the recessive only when the dominant is lacking.

Only one plant out of 64 would be our planned goal, a hardy white with normal falls (see arrow, also photograph F), and it might be necessary to plant the seeds from many pods of the same

cross to find and isolate it. My claim is that our result is as hardy as DAUNTLESS. I have a similar plant in the garden which has been submerged in a foot of water for three days, and under slush, ice, and snow for more than a month, and yet it gave normal bloom. PURISSIMA would not have bloomed. This is at variance with many of the hardy tender theories in the BULLETIN. Though it means wasting of more midnight oil, it seems a shame to throw a monkey-wrench in Shull's diagram, page 53, BULLETIN No. 79, but to me it appears to err in some ways. For instance, if it is true that tenderness is the product of a single gene or genes carried in one chromosome, why illustrate the theory with a diagram of 12 cells crossed with 12? In the next to the lowest row of cell circles, there are eight inherited out of thin air to prove his point, with no lines attached to ancestors. Referring to resolution number one and using TT for tender and tt for absence of that trait, (F1) plants would take a "T" from one side and a "t" from the other and all be Tt tender. Crossing these first generation plants would give TT-2Tt-tt, or three tender plants to one hardy. Crossing pure *Mesopotamica* with pure *Variegata* should give every seedling the same phenotype and genotype in (F1), otherwise the parents could not be pure species.

*No. 8. Resolved to name and release only super creations.*

I have always admired my neighbor Paul Cook, who though he has grown thousands of seedlings, has introduced the minimum. Other breeders also practice restraint, for it is just as important in introducing iris as in eating, drinking, or making pre-election pledges.

There is such limited space in my three city lots that I must plan my crosses well, and I can not do all the experimenting that I would like. There was too much work involved to tell in detail all the crosses made to substantiate the ideas presented in this article. Suffice to say that in the last four years more than 100 crosses were made with tender white PURISSIMA and its seedlings crossed with named varieties, also about the same number with Sass white 1532, a huge flower which probably was not introduced because of pinched falls.

Any information about dominance will be gladly received so that I may later release it to help all. If you think I am wrong about some of these ideas, perhaps I am. "It's what we learn after we think we know . . ."

## CONCERNING JUDGING AND TRIAL GARDENS

HAROLD T. BENT

I WAS MUCH interested in the articles written by Mrs. Douglas Pattison and Miss Marian Price Scruggs which appeared in BULLETIN No. 79, relative to questions of judging and test gardens. There is no doubt in my mind that these ladies are very much in the right in criticizing as they do. It is questionable whether anyone can get more than a fair idea of the value of a flower, whether it is an iris, rose, or what-have-you, under our present system of scoring. At the best, it is only an average of the general opinion of a certain number of individuals who may or may not be competent to pass on the horticultural merits of a plant. It tells us nothing as to how these judges arrived at their score. Certainly there is something wrong when an iris can get a high score of 97 and a low of 84 all in the same year. These figures certainly show a decided lack of unity in judging, and perhaps a great deal more. It is absurd to think that any flower will ever get to within three points of being perfect, but that is what some judge has said when he sent in a rating of 97. We shall have no ratings of any real worth until judges are forced to use a uniform score card, which will give a recapitulation of points as they score them. These should be signed by the judges and published in the BULLETIN. Unquestionably such a procedure would slightly increase the work of the tabulator, but we would have a very definite idea of value, by comparing the scale of points as submitted by the different judges. This method would show up any attempt to "pad" a rating, either for commercial purposes or for friendship, and it would eliminate any "cutting" of points due to grudges or personal preferences. Without doubt, it would raise the standard of judging to such an extent that our amateur group would feel safe in buying from the BULLETIN ratings, without having to wait to see them growing.

One of the finest and best-written criticisms on the subject of judging is that of Mr. Geddes Douglas, which appeared in BULLETIN No. 77. It shows a most unusual horticultural knowledge and commonsense thinking on the subject. It is doubtful if a single argument can be advanced against any of the reforms that he suggests.

Excellent as his suggestions are, I doubt whether they would overcome the personal element, which is so fragrantly evident at present, unless they were tied in with some sort of safeguard such as I have suggested, or that they could be applied fairly unless all iris were judged under somewhat equal growing conditions. Mrs. Pattison is unquestionably correct in what she calls the "Acid Test" of an iris's worth, and I believe that if all of our judges could or would forget their personal preferences in regard to color, better judging would result. Color is only one of the important things to consider when scoring a plant, and unless considered with substance and form is of little value. All of us have our personal likes and dislikes in colors, but we should not allow this to interfere with giving an iris fair consideration as to its value in its own color field. A study of the range in the scores as submitted by the different judges throughout the country would seem to indicate that many of these judges are scoring according to their own standards and not by those approved by the Society.

The growing tendency to breed for large-size flowers is indeed alarming, and the fact that size counts heavily with many judges is evident not only in the show room but also in the high ratings that many receive in the field. Our small- and medium-flowered varieties are being much neglected, when, as a matter of fact, these are more often point by point of greater value horticulturally. A flower that has size and nothing else is to me a decided monstrosity and should receive no consideration; yet, I have seen judges ignore very apparent defects, such as impure colors, poor substance, poor branching, and petal defects, in preference to size alone. This fact was brought to my attention quite forcibly recently, when I was chided in a friendly way by one of our amateur members for my antipathy toward any iris that showed Dykes influence by the usual tell-tale flecking, a defect which I always score heavily against. As an amateur with little horticultural experience, he did not stop to think that this was a most decided horticultural imperfection, and any iris that had it must be necessarily scored lower than otherwise would be the case, as a rating should be a gauge of a flower's perfection.

It may be that sooner or later, we will have to judge flowers for their garden value as a separate feature, for I believe we all recognize the fact that many iris are magnificent for this purpose, but would have a very low score otherwise. Such plants

have a very distinct place, but in no case should they be foisted on to the unsuspecting public at high prices; yet, this is being done today through our imperfect judging system, by over-rating. There is no doubt that many buyers pass by those with low scores, feeling that they had insufficient merit, but if they were scored highly for garden effect, I believe that ratings for horticultural perfection would have a different meaning to the average buyer of iris. I am afraid that many of us are forgetting that every floral society is made up of three very distinct groups, the commercial, the professional amateur, and the novice, and that the latter two make up over 90 per cent of our membership and that the clearer and more honest we make our records, the better it will be for all of us.

Test gardens will have to be established before we get through, and I believe that they would have been long ago if it had not been for dealer opposition. The arguments used against the establishment of such gardens are so foolish that the real reason is quite obvious to those of us who are familiar with the situation. It would seem reasonable to suggest that test gardens be placed in those regions of extreme conditions, under the supervision of professional amateur members, with sufficient safeguards to fully protect the breeder. It would probably be necessary to limit the eligibility to such gardens by setting a minimum low score, or to allow only award winners to be there for final evaluation. Western and Eastern introductions should be segregated so that a fair test could be made. By doing so, it would eliminate such skepticism as is expressed by Harold I. Johnson in his article, "A California Viewpoint," which, by the way, is the same attitude that many Eastern growers have concerning Western introductions, with the exception that Eastern growers do take chances and buy the Western roots in the hope that they may get a few that will be hardy and worth while.

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## NOTES ON IRIS NATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA

### MARIE LEBARON ARBUCKLE

■ THE NUMBER of iris species native to North America equals those found in Europe and northern Africa, while Asia and Asia Minor claim twice the number of the species found in North America, Europe and northern Africa combined, with only one of the number duplicated in both hemispheres.

In North America we have quite a treasury of native iris species, many of them not at all difficult to grow. Among them may be found iris suitable for border edgings, for border backgrounds, for the water or the rock or the wild garden, or for that little woodsy, shady spot that is to be found in most gardens.

The following list of native iris species has been compiled from a number of authoritative sources. It would be interesting to know how many of them are grown in each of our iris regions.

All iris species native to North America are rhizomatous, and all belong to the Apogon or Beardless section of the genus, with the exception of *I. cristata* and *I. lacustris*, which belong to the Evansia or Crested section. Although we have no Pogon or Bearded iris, we do have one whose flowers are similar in form to a Pumila (dwarf bearded) lacking the beard; this is the lovely *I. verna*. Another interesting note is that *I. setosa*, one of our natives, of which we have several types, is the only iris species which is native to both the Eastern and Western hemispheres.

In summing up, we have two sections of the genus iris native to North America, namely, Evansia or Crested, and Apogon or Beardless.

The Evansia section in North America has one subsection with two divisions:

- I. *cristata*
- I. *lacustris*

The Apogon section in North America has 7 subsections, each subsection having from one to eight divisions, namely,

Sibirica—1	Longipetala—4
Hexagona—8	Tripetala—2
Virginica—3	Miscellaneous—1
California—7	

The Miscellaneous subsection of the genus is composed of a group of iris, each member of which has only one known representative, while each of the other subsections of the genus has from two to 15, or more, divisions.

*I. verna*. Linnaeus, 1753. (Miscellaneous subsection)

The range of *I. verna* is in the Southern Appalachians. It grows naturally in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and was recently reported as growing naturally in southern Ohio, in Adams County. *I. verna* requires a decidedly acid soil. It has the appearance of a Pumila, except there is no visible beard, but merely a pubescent orange ridge on the falls. Leaves are six to eight inches; flower stems about 10 inches. The blade of the falls is bright blue-lilac except for the central orange band, and the standards are of the same blue-lilac. It does best in a moist peaty soil in a half shady position. It probably needs to be kept fairly dry in winter.

*I. setosa*. Pallas, 1820. (Tripetala subsection)

Variations of this iris are known as *Canadensis*, *Hookeri*, *Tricuspis* and *Arctica*. The Asiatic and western United States forms are two feet or more in height, while the eastern United States, as well as the Canadian and Alaskan forms are much dwarfer. This latter form is regarded as *I. setosa*, variety *canadensis*, and by some as a distinct species. The color may be a light purplish blue with veins of any deeper shade. There seems to be great variation in the shades of blue, some of them approaching a true blue. It is sometimes a reddish blue and there has been a rare white form found in Japan. It grows naturally in Alaska, Eastern Canada, Labrador, and along the coast of Maine. It grows naturally also in Northern Siberia, Japan, Turkestan, Kashmir, Tibet to Manchuria. It is very floriferous and quite ornamental as a garden plant.

*I. tridentata*. Pursh, 1814. Syn. *tripetala*, Walter, 1788 (Tripetala subsection)

This iris is closely related to *I. setosa*. It is native to the southeastern United States—North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida. The leaves are quite erect and grass-like, the flowers are slightly fragrant, borne one to a stem, which is from one to two feet tall. The color is blue-purple, mottled with paler patches and veined with thin but conspicuous lines of darker blue. The signal patch is white with some trace of yellow in the center.

*I. prismatica*. Pursh, 1814. (Sibirica subsection)

This iris is said to be of great antiquity, having been found in the deposits of the Ice Age in the Appalachians. It grows naturally in the plant provinces of the Blue Ridge, the Piedmont, and the Coastal Plains. It loves the cranberry bogs, but also grows on the mountain tops among the pines. Stems are about 18 inches, flowers violet, falls closely veined

with the same color on white. In some instances the flowers are almost blue, and there is also a white form reported.

*I. cristata*. Solander, 1789. (Evansia section)

Found in the hilly sections of Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Texas, and Arkansas. The practically stemless flowers are raised from the ground by a perianth tube 3 or 4 inches long. Flowers are various shades of lilac-lavender borne singly or in pairs; a central ridge of white runs along the haft of the falls. Along the haft it is tipped with orange but with lilac on the blade. There it is surrounded by a conspicuous patch of white edged with deep lilac, which gradually fades away towards the circumference of the blade. The standards extend almost horizontally and are uniform in color. Leaves 6 or 8 inches long.

*I. lacustris*. Nuttall, 1818. (Evansia section)

Named by reference to its home on the shores of the Great Lakes. The foliage of *I. lacustris* is not more than half as long as that of *I. cristata*, and its new growths are more densely crowded. The flowers are smaller and darker in color than *I. cristata*.

*I. virginica*. Linnaeus, 1753. (Virginica subsection—Waller)

*I. virginica* is a plant of stream borders and marsh ground. Distributed in southeastern and southwestern United States and the Mississippi Valley as far north as Ohio and Illinois. Color is a blue-purple with a bright yellow pubescent spot at the base of the blade.

*I. versicolor*. Linnaeus, 1753. (Virginica subsection)

The remote ancestors of this iris had their home in the Appalachian Highlands before the Ice Age and after this spread eastward, northward, and southward. Flowers a reddish violet, the haft of the falls veined with purple on a yellow ground, which fades to white on the blade. The exact shade of purple may be either a dull slate, a blue, or rich red. The latter is sometimes called *Kermisina*. Dispersal is by means of floating seeds. The species probably extends from the Great Lakes region across New York along the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys to eastern Pennsylvania and Maryland.

*I. shreveii*. Small (Virginica subsection) Syn. Interior Blue Flag

Found in northwestern Arkansas and the Mississippi valley. Habit of growth similar to *I. virginica*. Color pale lavender, is sweetly fragrant, and loves marshy places.

*I. hexagona*. Walter, 1788. (Hexagona subsection)

*I. hexagona* grows along the coast line of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, and passes into Georgia and Louisiana. The color is a rich blue and sometimes a red-purple. Dykes describes this iris as bearing large lavender flowers on three-foot stems and reports albino forms with pure white flowers. There appears to be a great variation in the shades of purple or lavender, under cultivation, as well as in the size of flower. The flower stem bears several heads of flowers, each of which, except the topmost, springs from the axil of a reduced leaf. Leaves two feet.

*I. Kimballiae.* Small, 1921. (Hexagona subsection)

Native of Florida. Belongs to the *hexagona* family but is of a different group. The leaves are erect, five or eight together. Color is a rich blue with two flowers on stems from one to two feet tall.

*I. rivularis.* Small (Hexagona subsection). Syn. Sylvan Blue Flag

Native of Florida and Georgia, where it follows along streams, hence its name. It is a vigorous iris and lives regardless of whether the soil is washed from its roots or buried deeply in it. The color is a rich purple, the plant one to two feet tall and the rhizome fat.

*I. albispiritus.* Small, 1924-5. Syn. Ghost Iris. ( Hexagona subsection )

Native of two small districts of Florida. The white flowers stand well above the two and one-half-foot leaves. At a distance the flowers give the appearance of will-o'-the-wisps, hence the name of Ghost Iris.

*I. flexicaulis.* Small, 1927. Syn. Zigzag Blue Flag. (Hexagona subsection)

Native of the lower basins of Texas. Likes a dense turf on a marshy slope. Flower stems similar to *I. foliosa*; flowers in shades of blue. This may be a variant of *I. foliosa*. The flower stalks are relatively short and often prostrate, hiding the flowers among the leaves.

*I. foliosa.* Mackenzie & Bush, 1902. Syn. *I. brevicaulis*. Rafinesque, 1837. (Hexagona subsection)

This species is found in Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and the lower Mississippi Valley. It is related to *I. hexagona*, but is less vigorous. The stalks are weak and inclined to prostrate and hide among the leaves, but they are lovely to see. The flowers are very similar to *I. hexagona*, but are not quite so large. The stem is about one foot in length, the blade of the falls is a fine blue-lavender with a central patch of greenish white. The stem zigzags slightly at leaf, which contains a bud in its axil. There is an albino form, as in the case of *I. hexagona*. While this iris is also known as *I. brevicaulis*, the name *I. foliosa* is the one now generally accepted. Variants of this iris are known as *I. flexicaulis*, *I. shreveii* and *I. mississippiensis* (Small), each of which has some distinctive marks of variation.

*I. fulva.* Ker-Gawler, 1812. (Hexagona subsection)

Grows naturally in the Mississippi Valley near New Orleans and as far north as Ohio and Illinois, southeast to Georgia, west to Texas and Arkansas. It is so called because of its bright terra-cotta flowers, a color that is unique among flowers. Stems are rather more than two feet in length, the flowers being produced from the axils of leaves of some length. The leaves have the characteristic black dots of water iris when held up to the light. A cross between *I. fulva* and *I. foliosa* has resulted in two forms of the hybrid FULVALA, both with rich velvety falls, one a red-purple and the other of a bluer shade. Dr. Reed, Curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, has further experimented with the crosses of the second generation, which resulted in lovely shades of yellow, pink, and rose.

*I. giganticaerulea.* Small, 1929. (Hexagona subsection)

Native of southern Louisiana in the Delta region. Leaves relatively narrow and sword-like, 35 to 40 inches tall. Flower stalks 40 to 50 inches tall and nearly straight, sometimes taller; very stout, with flowers borne at different levels on the stalk. The dominant color is columbine blue, the darker shades varying to lobelia blue, the lighter ones through wisteria and lavender to white. This is the tallest iris known.

*I. savannarum.* Small, Syn. Prairie Blue Flag. (Hexagona subsection)

This iris outclasses our other species in size of bloom, with the exception perhaps of some of the Delta iris. The seed pods are so heavy in clusters that they at length lie on the ground or in the water and decay, the pod then opens and a brown corky lozenge falls out. These are so well protected by the corky covering they are buoyant and will follow the wind and water and start a new colony. The plant can be either wet or dry all year, and will live in a rich loam or a poor sandy loam. It inhabits the prairies and savannahs of the Gulf States.

*I. Tenax.* Douglas, 1829. (California subsection)

Native to Washington and Oregon. It is named apparently with reference to the strength of its stems which the Indians used to twist into cord. Flower stems 12 to 18 inches, usually bearing two flowers in varying shades of orchid marked with white or yellow and a white signal patch on the falls. The flower is about two and one-half inches wide. Occasionally white flowers are found. It is a remarkably graceful and pleasing iris and can be easily grown from seed.

*I. innomia*ta. Henderson, 1930. (California subsection)

Native of Oregon. Varies in size from three to 10 inches; color usually a light creamy yellow veined more or less heavily with brown, but there is great variation in color; some are a deep orange self, while lavender flowers are not uncommon. The flowers are beautifully ruffled.

*I. bracteata.* Watson, 1885. (California subsection)

Native of Oregon. Leaves 18 inches; flower stems six to eight inches, usually a single flower head of two blossoms. Color yellow, more or less veined with reddish purple. Thrives best in open pine forests. Leaves leathery.

*I. tenuis.* Watson, 1882. (California subsection)

The creeping rhizomes spread widely in loose, decaying vegetable debris, and send up stems about one foot in height. The flowers are white with a few purple dots and a patch of yellow on the falls.

*I. purdyi.* Eastwood, 1897. (California subsection)

Found in the Redwood districts of California. This iris was named for Carl Purdy of Ukiak, Cal. The short unbranched stem is hidden entirely in the short bract-like leaves and bears two large flat flowers in succession. The color varies from white through cream and lavender. Stems six to eight inches.

*I. tenuissima.* Dykes, 1912. (California subsection)

Slender species found in Shasta County, Cal. Stems nearly one foot in length with perianth tube of one inch. The white falls veined with yellowish brown and have a wavy edge. The standards are pointed and have a few yellowish veins running up the center.

*I. Macrosiphon.* Torrey, 1857. (California subsection)

Native of Oregon and California. Narrow, slender foliage about one foot in length. Flower stems two or three inches with a perianth tube often three inches long. Color variable, being all shades of blue and red-purple and sometimes white. In all cases the flowers are veined with a delicate darker shade on a paler ground. The standards are somewhat shorter than the falls and usually of the same pale shade as the ground color. It is a compact and low-growing species.

*I. gormanii.* Piper, 1924. (California subsection)

Similar to *I. tenax* but with soft yellow flowers on stems 10 to 12 inches.

*I. Thompsonii.* B. F. Foster (California subsection)

From Northern California. Similar to *I. innominata* in growth, but with lavender flowers. It may be a variation of *I. innominata*.

*I. hartwegii.* Hartweg, 1848. Baker, 1876. (California subsection)

Native of the pine forests in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. Leaves slender, about eight to 10 inches long; stem wiry, six to 10 inches. Falls pale creamy yellow with a raised central ridge, and veins of a deeper color. Standards slightly longer than the falls, pale creamy yellow veined with a deeper shade. Similar to *I. tenax*.

*I. arizonica.* Dykes, 1917. (Longipetala subsection)

Grows in the Arizona mountains at an altitude of 8,000 feet. Leaves and stems are 24 to 30 inches long. The stems usually produce a lateral cluster of two or three flowers below the terminal spathe, which contains from three to six flowers. Color lilac or lavender with a yellow blotch at the center of the falls. The flowers are supported on a pedicle over two inches long.

*I. longipetala.* Herbert, 1841. (Longipetala subsection)

Follows the coast of California from San Francisco to Monterey. Leaves are two or more feet long by one inch in width. Stems are equal in length to the leaves and bear one or two lateral heads of flowers besides the terminal head. Each spathe produces from three to six flowers in succession, on long pedicles. The large flowers are veined with violet on a white ground. The central ridge is thickly dotted with violet on a white ground, and this dotted area spreads a little over the center of the blade. The standards are peculiar, being distinctly oblong and blunt at the upper end, with a shallow nick in the center.

*I. montana.* Nuttall, 1834. (Longipetala subsection)

Native to the Rocky Mountains and the country west. Flower stem about 15 to 18 inches, leaves the same length. The stem bears two or three flowers in a terminal head; standards lilac or lavender, falls

darker with spreading or diffuse veins running beyond a central patch of yellow.

*I. missouriensis*. Nuttall, 1834. (Longipetala subsection)

Native to the Rocky Mountains near the source of the Missouri and all over the Great Basin to the south and west. This is the upland form of the *Longipetala* group and differs only in its more slender growth and in the fact that the stems are distinctly longer than the leaves. Flower stems are up to two feet and carry two white or pale blue crestless flowers veined with darker blue. It is a lover of ground that is amply watered during the growing season, although it may bake to the hardness of concrete later.

Louisiana or Delta iris.

Quoting from an article by Percy Viosca, Jr., in the American Iris Society BULLETIN, April, 1935: "Four species of native iris are recognized as occurring in Southeastern Louisiana, one, *I. virginica*, belonging to the Virginica subsection of the genus iris, and three, *I. foliosa*, *I. fulva* and *I. giganticaerulea*, belonging to the Hexagona subsection." Until further research work has been completed with the Louisiana or Delta iris and their hybrids or variants, it is not possible to classify the iris already named. Quoting Dr. Small: "The species from the lower Mississippi Delta are hardy up to the latitude of New York. Curiously enough, under conditions quite different from those of their native habitats, the plants flower as freely as they do in the Gulf region."

They are easily raised from seed and can be cultivated in almost any kind of rich garden soil, not too acid, providing they are given a reasonable amount of moisture during their growing periods in spring and fall.

While these iris grow naturally in or at the water line of streams and swamps and are subjected to alternate floods and droughts, they will grow and flower under "dry land" cultivation.

The colors vary through shades of red, red- and blue-purple, columbine blue and wisteria shades, copper and salmon shades, rosewood or rose shades, and shades varying from dark ruby red toward pontiff or imperial purple.

For purposes of identification, these iris are divided into groups, namely:

Group Fulvae (Uniform color, no crest)

Group Unicristata (Single crest)

- Group Biceristata (Double crest)
- Group Lancieristata (Lance-shaped crest)
- Group Coroniceristata (Crown-shaped crest)
- Group Radiceristata (Radiating crest zone)

Some of the named varieties are :

Vinicola	Ioleuca	Iodantha	Paludicola
Elephantina	Cyonantha	Gentilliana	Alticeristata
Miraculosa	Bifurcata	Lancipetala	Fluviatilis
Iocyanea	Viridis	Cyanochrysea	Parvicaerulea
Fulvurea	Fourchiana	Violipurpurea	Mississippiensis

References :

- Dykes, *The Genus Iris*.
- Dykes, *Handbook of Garden Irises*.
- Edgar T. Anderson, *Annals of the Missouri Botanic Garden*.
- A. E. Waller, *Native Iris of Ohio and Bordering Territory*.
- Percy Viosca, Jr., *The Irises of Southeastern Louisiana*, American Iris Society BULLETIN, April, 1935.  
*Delta Irises and their Culture*.
- John K. Small, *Addisonia*, Vol. 9, No. 4, Dec., 1924.
- Robt. C. Foster, *Nomenclature of Iridaceae*.
- Rafinesque, *Florula Ludoviciana*.

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. George M. Reed, Curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, for his kindly assistance in the classification of the following Iris :

Setosa and its varieties, Hookeri, Canadensis and Tricuspis.	
Kimballiae.	Savannarum
Rivularis	Gormanii
Albispiritus	Thompsonii
Flexicaulis	Innominata

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *Shortly before going to press Mrs. Arbuckle advised us that much of the above material was prepared prior to the appearance of the 1939 Check List. Consequently, it contains some minor differences in the classifications of the iris species from those appearing in the Check List. We did not feel that these were conflicting enough to warrant withholding her interesting article from publication.*

## IRIS INTRODUCTIONS OF 1940

### Additions to List of Breeders and Introducers

Ayres-Emig.—	Dr. W. McL. Ayres (breeder), and Mrs. J. F. Emigholz (selector), Cincinnati, Ohio.
Boothman—	Stuart Boothman, Nightingale Nursery, Furze Platt, Maid-enhead, Berks, England.
Encino—	Encino Iris Gardens, 15538 Ventura Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif.
Fair.—	Fairmount Gardens, 166 Fairmount Avenue, Lowell, Mass.
Hillson—	H. M. & R. C. Hill, Hill Iris & Peony Farm, Lafontaine, Kansas (formerly Hill-H.M.).
Homan-H.—	N. V. H. Homan & Co., Oegstgeest, Holland.
Kirk.-Williams—	J. H. Kirkland (breeder), and T. A. Williams (registrant), Nashville, Tenn.
Reinelt—	Frank Reinelt, Capitola, Calif.
Wareham—	John Dee Wareham (formerly abbrev. Wrhm.), Rookwood Pottery Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

### List of Introductions, 1940

ALACRITY.	TB-MLa-S9L (Peckham 1940); Peckham.
ALBEDO.	TB-EM-W4 (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.
ALIGHT.	TB-M-W6L rev (Ayres-Emig. 1940); Kenwood 1940.
AMBER QUEEN.	DB-E-Y4M (Ouden); Bees 1940.
AMY AURIN.	TB-La-B7M (Callis 1940).
ANCHORAGE.	TB-EM-R4D (Grant 1940); Fair. 1940.
ANNA LOUISE.	TB-M-B1M (Bommers. 1940).
ANNE NEWHARD.	TB-VLa-B3D (Wiesner 1940); Fair. 1940; Kellogg 1940; Whiting 1940.
ARABIA.	TB-M-B3M (Wal. 1940).
ARCADIA.	TB-La-S9M (Tharp 1940).
ARCTIC.	TB-M-W4 (Klein. 1940); Cooley 1940.
ARETHUSA.	TB-M-S7M (Gage 1940).
ARTISTIC.	TB-M-Y4L (Wayman 1940).
ASHES OF ROSES.	TB-M-S7M (Kirk. 1940); Iris City 1940.
AZURE FAIRY.	Jap-Sgl-4 Per. 1940.
AZURE MIST.	TB-M-B1L (Wash. 1940); Fair. 1940.
BALL O'GOLD	TB-M-Y4D (Ayres-Emig. 1940); Kenwood 1940.
BELLE COVERT.	TB-M-S9L (Lap. 1940); Gage 1940.
BIG MATT.	TB-M-W4 (Maples 1940).
BIRCHBARK.	TB-M-WW (Klein. 1940); Cooley 1940.
BLUE DREAM.	TB-M-B7L (Wayman 1940).
Blue Pearl.	Jap-Sgl-4BL (Per. 1940).
Blue Peter.	Jap-Dbl-6BD (Per. 1940).
BLUE POLL.	Sib-B1L (Wal. 1940).

BOGATYR. TB-M-B9D (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
BOMMERSBACK. TB-E-Y9D (Bommers. 1940).  
BONNIE BENTLEY. TB-M-S7M (Tharp 1940).  
BONNIE LASS. IB-VLa-Y7M (Douglas-G. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
BO PEEP. TB-M-R7L (Lap. 1940); Gage 1940.  
BRAZOS. TB-E-R9L rev (Bommers. 1940).  
BRONZE IMAGE. TB-M-S9M (Kirk.-Williams 1940); Iris City 1940.  
BRONZED NYMPH. TB-EM-S4M (Parker-J.B. 1940).  
BROWN BOY. TB-M-R4M (Salb. 1940).  
BROWN MONARCH. TB-MLa-S7D (Covert 1940).  
BUFFAWN. TB-E-M-S7L (And. 1940); Rockmont 1940.  
BURNISHED GOLD. TB-E-Y4D (Kirk. 1940); Iris City 1940.  
California Blue. Cal-BD (Purdy 1940).  
California Golden Yellow. Cal-Y (Purdy 1940).  
CANALETTO. TB-S9D (Gage 1940).  
CAPITOLA. IMB-E-R2D rev (Reinelt 1940); Salb. 1940.  
CARINOSA. TB-EM-R7L (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
CAROLINE BURR. TB-M-W4 (Smith-K. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
CASA BLANCA. TB-M-WW (Wash. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
CAYUGA. Jap-Dbl-3RM (Barber 1940); Hoodaeres 1940.  
CHESTNUT HILL. TB-EM-Y4D (Gage 1940).  
CHRISTIANA. TB-M-B7D (Horton 1940).  
CINNAMON BEAR. TB-La-Y8M (Salb. 1940).  
CLARA. TB-M-R7L (Bommers. 1940).  
CLAREMORE. TB-La-B1L (Callis 1940).  
CLARET VELVET. TB-M-R1D (National 1940).  
CLARK MOORE. TB-M-R9M (Bommers. 1940).  
Conspicuous. Jap-3R (Wayside 1940).  
CREAM GIANT. TB-M-Y4L (Wayman 1940).  
CREMELLO. TB-La-W4 (Egel. 1940).  
Crimson Victory. National 1940.  
COCK OF GOLD. TB-M-Y3M (Lewis-H. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
CROWN OF GOLD. TB-M-Y4D (Hall-D. 1940); Hahn 1940.  
DANCING GIRL. Jap-Dbl-6B7 (Barber 1940); Hoodaeres 1940.  
DANCING SPRITE. TB-E-R1M (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
DARMSTADT. DB-E-B7D (Per. 1940).  
DAWN OF GOLD. TB-La-Y4D (Salb. 1940).  
DAYDAWN. TB-M-S7L (Whiting 1940).  
DAY'S FAREWELL. TB-M-R9M (Millik. 1940).  
D. BREESE JONES. TB-M-S9M (Gers.-Watkins 1940); Watkins 1940.  
DELPHINUS. TB-La-B1D (Tharp 1940).  
DESDEMONA. Jap-Dbl-6B7.  
DEWY MOON. Cal-W4 (DeForest 1940).  
Early Dawn. Jap-6BL (Per. 1940).

ELEVEN THIRTY. Cal-B1D (DeForest 1940).  
ELIZABETH ANN. TB-M-R4L (Lap. 1940); Gage 1940.  
ENA. TB-M-Y9L (Bommers. 1940).  
ENAMORADA. TB-MLa-R9L (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
ESPECIALLY YOU. TB-E-Y4D (White-C.G.-Sturt. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
ETHELYN KLEITZ. TB-E-R4M (Gage 1940); Gage 1940; Fair. 1940.  
EVER GLAD. TB-La-R4M (Tharp 1940).  
EVERGOLD. TB-MLa-Y4D (Grant 1940); Fair. 1940.  
EVOLVED. TB-M-S4M (National 1940).  
FAIRY LUSTRE. TB-Y4L (Wash. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940;

### **Moonmist.**

FIRE BLUE. Jap-Dbl-6BD (Barber 1940); Hoodacres 1940.  
FIREWORKS. TB-M-R6M (Wayman 1940).  
FLORA CAMPBELL. TB-LaM-S6D (Hillson 1940); H. M., A. I. S., 1940.  
foetidissima fructo lutea. Scar-S. Per. 1940.  
FOREST AFLAME. TB-VLa-S7M (National 1940).  
FOREST FIRE. TB-M-R6M (Wayman 1940).  
FRANCES DOUGLAS. TB-EM-S7M (Gage 1940).  
FULVA SPECIAL. Fulv-R4D (Wayman 1940).  
Funkoku. Jap-Sgl-6RM (Per. 1940).  
GAY DAY. TB-M-R9D (Wayman 1940).  
Gem. Sib-B1D (Wal. 1940).  
GLAMOROUS NIGHT. TB-VLa-S9D (Wiesner 1940); Fair. 1940.  
GLORIA GLOVER. TB-La-R7L (Bommers. 1940).  
GLOWING. TB-M-R6M (Bommers. 1940).  
GOLDEN COCKREL. TB-Y4M (Whiting-Hillson 1940); Hillson 1940.  
GOLDEN FLEECE. TB-La-W6L rev (Sass-J. 1940); Whiting 1940; H. M.,  
A. I. S. 1940.  
GOLDEN HEART. TB-EM-Y5L (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
Golden Light Sport. TB-M-Y4D (Kellogg 1940).  
GOLDEN MAGIC. TB-E-Y4D (Wayman 1940).  
GOLDEN SPIKE. TB-M-Y4D (Whiting 1940); H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
GOLD QUEEN. TB-M-Y4D (Wayman 1940).  
GOLD RIVER. Cal-Y4D (Boothman 1940).  
Greater Vendor. National 1940.  
Grinter's Amoena. TB-W9D (Grinter 1940); Quality 1940.  
HARRIET FORDYCE. TB-M-B1L (Wiesner 1940); Fair. 1940.  
HAZEL GALLAGHER. TB-M-S9D (Gage 1940).  
HEADLINER. Cal-R7D (DeForest 1940).  
Heavenly Blue. DB-B (Boothman 1940).  
HEIRLOOM. TB-M-R9M (Grant 1940); Fair. 1940.  
HELEN M. RIEDEL. TB-EM-S9D (Riedel-Mead 1940); Callis 1940.  
HER GRACE. TB-M-S1L (DeForest 1940).  
Hoknko. Jap-Dbl-6BM (Per. 1940).  
HONEY CHILE. TB-M-S6M (Salb. 1940).  
HONEY GOLD. TB-M-Y8M (Tobie 1940); Fair. 1940.  
HONOR. TB-La-B1L (Tharp 1940).

HYLEPHILA. TB-EE-M-S9M (Gage 1940).  
ICY BLUE. TB-E-B1L (National 1940).  
IMBODEN. TB-M-R9M rev (Bommers. 1940).  
ISLAND PRINCESS. Jap-Sgl-4BL (Per. 1940).  
IVORY QUEEN. TB-E-M-W4 (Millik. 1940).  
Jennie. TB-B3L (Field 1940).  
JUNIOR. TB-M-Y6M (Bommers. 1940).  
KANSAS BOQUET. TB-M-S7L (Hillson 1940).  
KANSAS SUNRISE. TB-M-S6M (Hillson 1940).  
KATE TB-M-B8M (Bommers. 1940).  
KING'S RANSOM. TB-M-Y4M (Millik. 1940).  
LADYBIRD. Sib-B1M (Wal. 1940).  
LADY IDA MAE. TB-M-S9D (Callis 1940).  
LAEVIGATA ATROPURPUREA. Laev-B7D (Per. 1940).  
LANCASTER. TB-M-La-R4L (Cook-P. 1940); Long. 1940.  
Landscape at Dawn. Jap-Dbl-6BM (Per. 1940).  
LATE NEWS. TB-Re-B7M (Maples 1940).  
LATE SUN. TB-La-Y4D (DeForest 1940).  
LAVENDER AND OLD LACE. TB-M-S1L (National 1940).  
LINA-MAY. TB-MLa-S6M (Gers. 1940); Ashley 1940.  
linnaefolius. Sib?-W8D (Boothman 1940).  
LINWOOD. TB-M-B7M (Covert 1940).  
LITTLE CLEORA IB-E-B7L (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
LIZZIE RICKENBACH. TB-M-Y9M (Bommers. 1940).  
LORD DONGAN. TB-M-R3D (Smith-K. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
LOU BARBEY. TB M-Y9D (Bommers. 1940).  
LOUISE FARNER. TB-M-R7L (Bommers. 1940).  
LUCERNE. TB-EM-B1L (Salb. 1940).  
LYNDON. TB-MLa-S9M (Lap. 1940); Horton 1940.  
MAGGIE. TB-M-R9D (Bommers. 1940).  
MAHOGANY GLORY. Jap-Dbl-6RD (Barber 1940); Hoodacres 1940.  
MALKO-No-HAMA. Jap-Dbl-2B (Chugai 1940).  
MANZANILLA. TB-M-R4D (Peckham 1940).  
MARVEL. TB-M-R9D (Wayman 1940).  
MARY F. GIBBS. TB-M-R9D (Wayman 1940).  
MATANA. TB-M-La-R6D (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
MAUDE GIBBS. TB-M-WW (Wayman 1940).  
MEADOW LARK. TB-M-Y5D (Tharp 1940).  
MEDITERRANEE. TB-La-B1M (Wareham 1940); Fair. 1940.  
MELISANDE. Sib-B2L (Wal.); Wal. 1940.  
MELITZA. TB-M-R4L (Nes. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
MERINGUE. IB-M-Y4L (Smith-K. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
MICHAEL FARNER. TB-E-B1D (Bommers. 1940).  
Miridia. Jap-Dbl-4 (Per. 1940).  
MISS MUFFET. IMB-E-Y8L (Salb. 1940).  
MISSOURI MISS. TB-M-La-B1L (Maples 1940).

MIST O'ROSE. TB-E-S7L (Tharp 1940).  
**Moon Mist.** TB-Y4L (Wash. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940; FAIRY LUSTRE.  
MOTHER DEAR. TB-M-R7D (Gers. 1940); Watkins 1940.  
MYRTLE MAY. TB-La-B1M (Callis 1940).  
NADESHA. TB-MLa-B3L (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
NEGRILLON. TB-M-R6D (Wayman 1940).  
NICHOLAS. TB-M-B1M (Bommers. 1940).  
NIKITA. IB-M-R1M (Gers. 1940 [not 1932]); Ashley 1940.  
NOCTURNAL. IB-La-R7D (Grant 1940); Fair. 1940.  
NOEL. TB-M-WW (White-C.G. 1940); Millik. 1940.  
NOONDAY SKY. TB-E-M-B1L (National 1940).  
NORTH STAR. TB-M-W1 (Wash. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
NUTBROWN MAID. TB-La-S4M (Nes. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
NYLON. TB-La-S7M (Whiting 1940).  
OLATHA. TB-M-B7M (Tharp 1940).  
OLD ROSE. TB-EM-S7D (Salb. 1940).  
OLOMPALI. Cal-WW (DeForest 1940).  
ONE LITTLE INDIAN. IB-La-R7D (Hillson 1940).  
ORANGE FLAME. TB-M-La-Y9D (Salb. 1940).  
OSAGE CHIEF. Jap-Dbl-3RM (Barber 1940); Hoodacres 1940.  
PALE MOON. TB-M-Y4L (Wayman 1940).  
Pallida Purpurea. IB-M-B7D (Per. 1940).  
Pandora. Jap-Dbl-6BL (Per. 1940).  
PARTY DRESS. Jap-Dbl-5BM (Barber 1940); Hoodacres 1940.  
PAUL BONNEWITZ. TB-M-Y4L (Per. 1940).  
PEARL SATIN. TB-M-W7 (Wayman 1940).  
PEARLY GATES. Cal-S7L (DeForest 1940).  
PHANTOM. TB-M-W8M (Tobie 1940); Fair. 1940.  
PHARILON. TB-M-B1D (Wal. 1940).  
PIECES OF EIGHT. TB-M-Y4D (Lewis-H. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
PINK RUFFLES. IB-M-S4L (Smith-K. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
PINK VISTA. TB-M-R4L (Lap. 1940); Gage 1940.  
POLAR BEAR. TB-M-W1 (Wayman 1940).  
PRAIRIE FLOWER. TB-E-M-W4 (Tharp 1940).  
PRESTO. Cal-R7L (DeForest 1940).  
Prince of Orange. TB-M-R4 (Klein. 1940); Cooley 1940.  
pumila Blue Cheer. DB-E-B1M (Boothman 1940).  
RADIOBEAM. TB-M-La-S6L (Kellogg-W.M. 1940).  
RAEJEAN. TB-M-Y6D rev (Whiting 1940).  
RASPBERRY. Reg-R8M (Mohr); Oakhurst 1940.  
RED POMP. TB-M-R6D (Lap. 1940); Horton 1940.  
RED QUEEN. TB-M-R9M (Wayman 1940).  
RED RAY. TB-M-R9M (Lap. 1940); Horton 1940.  
REVERY. TB-La-S1M (Tharp 1940).  
Rhodos. Jap-Dbl-6S1L (Per. 1940).  
RIDING HIGH. TB-M-S9L (Lap. 1940); Horton 1940.  
Rising Sun. Jap-Dbl-6BM (Per. 1940).

RIVOIRE. DB-E-S5L (Per. 1940).  
ROCHESTER. IB-E-R1M (Kat. 1940).  
ROSY MAPLE. TB-La-S6M (Tharp 1940).  
Rowena. TB-Y4L (Per. 1940).  
ROWENA THORNLEY. Jap-Sgl-6BL (Per. 1940).  
ROYAL SPLENDOR. TB-M-R9M (Wayman 1940).  
SAWANNIC. TB-EE S6M (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
SEABISCUIT. TB-La-R4D (Callis 1940).  
SHAGA-LASKA. TB-M-B9D (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
SHANNOPIN. TB-La-W9M (Pillow 1940); Kellogg 1940.  
Shikiten. Jap-Sgl-4 (Per. 1940).  
SHIMMERING VELVET. TB-M-R9D (Callis 1940).  
SHINING SUN. TB-La-Y4M (Nes. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
Shodo. Jap-Sgl-2BM (Per. 1940).  
SIBIRICA NANA. Sib-B7L (Per. 1940).  
SIBIRICA NANA ALBA. Sib-W (Per. 1940).  
SILVER MOONLIGHT. Jap-Dbl-6BM (Per. 1940).  
SMOKEY. TB-M-S9D (Bommers. 1940).  
Snowball. Sib-WW (Wal. 1940).  
SNOW MOUNTAIN. TB-M-WW (Wayman 1940).  
Solfatare. Span-B3M rev (Homan); Homan-H. 1940.  
SONGBIRD. TB-M-S9M (Wayman 1940).  
SOQUEL. IMB-La-B8M (Reinelt 1940); Salb. 1940.  
SOUTHERN CROSS. TB-La-S9M (Burgess 1940); Long-J.D. 1940.  
SOUTHERN GEM. TB-La-R6D (Wash. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
SPIDER. Cal-W3M (DeForest 1940).  
SPRING DELIGHT. IB-LaM-Y6M rev (Salb. 1940).  
STELLA BECKER. TB-M-Y9M (Bommers. 1940).  
STELLA POLARIS. TB-M-W4 (Smith-K. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
STORM KING. TB-La-M-B7D (Nic. 1940).  
SUMMER EVE. TB-E-Y9D (Wayman 1940).  
SUMMER SCHNEE. TB-M-WW (Tharp 1940).  
SUNDANCE. TB-La-Y9M (Nes. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
SUN HAWK. TB-M-Y4M (DeForest 1940).  
Sunkissed. Jap-Sgl-6BD (Per. 1940).  
SUNSET TAN. TB-M-S7L (Egel. 1940).  
SUSAN DAVIS. Jap-Sgl-5? (Per. 1940).  
SYLVAN GOLD. TB-La-W4 (Wash. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
TANEYCOMO. TB-E-M-B1M (Maples 1940).  
TAWENDA. TB-EM-B1L (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
TEMECULA. TB-M-S7M (Berry 1940).  
THE DARB. TB-M-S9M (Grant 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
THE FIRST LADY. TB-La-W9M (Callis 1940).  
TITANIC. TB-MLa-B9M (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.

Tokio. Jap-Dbl-1R (Per. 1940).  
TREASURE TROVE. IB-La-Y4M (Sturt. 1940); Fair. 1940.  
TYRIAN BEAUTY. TB-M-S7M (Gage 1940); Fair. 1940.  
VAGABOND PRINCE. TB-La-B1D (Sass-J. 1940); Sass-J., 1940; Whiting 1940.  
VEINED BEAUTY. TB-M-W2M rev (National 1940).  
Vesta. Jap-Sgl-1WW (Per. 1940).  
VIIPURI. TB-M-W9D (Wmsn. 1940); Long. 1940.  
VIOLET PRINCE. DB-E-B9D (Ouden); Bees 1940.  
VIOLET SYMPHONY. TB-M-B7M (Smith-K. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
WAHKEENA. Cal-R7M (DeForest 1940); Starker 1940.  
WHITE ALONE. TB-M-WW (Horton 1940).  
WHITE BANNER. TB-M-WW (Wayman 1940).  
White Beauty. DB-WW (Field 1940).  
WHITE CAVALCADE. Jap-Dbl-1W1 (Barber 1940); Hoodacres 1940.  
White Pearl. Jap-Sgl-1WW (Per. 1940).  
WHITE PRINCE. TB-E-WW (Douglas-G. 1940); Fair. 1940; H. M., A. I. S. 1940.  
WHITE ROBE. TB-M-WW (Wayman 1940).  
WHITE SAPPHIRE. TB-M-WW (Wayman 1940).  
WHITE SPLENDOUR. TB-M-WW (Wayman 1940).  
WHITE TWIN. TB-EE-WW (Horton 1940).  
WILD ORCHID. TB-E-R1M (Kellogg-W.M. 1940); Kellogg 1940; Whiting 1940.  
WILL ROGERS. TB-VLa-S9M (Callis 1940).  
WISLEY WHITE. Sib W R. H. S. Seed List 386, 1940; **Sibirica Wisley White**.  
WOODBURY. TB-M-WW (Whiting 1940).  
WOODPECKER. Sib-B1D (Wal. 1940).  
YACQUITA. TB-La-B1L (Gers. 1940); Callis 1940.  
YELLOW WONDER. TB-M-Y4D (Kirk. 1940); Iris City 1940.  
YOUNG APRIL. IMB-E-R9D (White-C.G. 1940); Millik. 1940.  
YOUTH'S DREAM. TB-M-S7M (Carp.C. 1940); Fair. 1940.

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## COLOR SLIDE COMPETITION

■ THE BOARD of directors decided to continue the Slide Competition Contest for another year as the contest last year resulted in adding some very good color slides to the collection. The slide committee has adopted the following set of rules for the 1941 competition:

(1) Entries must be by members of the Society, and are to be color slides mounted between 2 x 2 glass with tape binding. Each contestant may enter any number of slides, but no person may win more than one prize. Slides should be mailed to Mrs. P. E. Corey, 7 Cliff Street, Winchester, Mass., before August 15, 1941.

(2) Slides should have the following information written or typed on the mount: Names of iris, introducer, and year of introduction. If possible, garden in which taken; and, in the case of general views, mention the name of owner and location of garden. For slides of iris personages, give names of people in the picture. Do not fail to include name of the maker of the slide.

(3) Prizes will be as follows: 1st prize, \$20; 2nd prize, \$10; 3rd prize, \$5, and five special prizes of \$3 each.

(4) Judges will be the chairman of the slides committee and two additional judges to be appointed by the president of the Society.

(5) The committee reserves the right to retain any or all slides entered in the competition.

It would be well to emphasize the fact that the slides committee is desirous of obtaining not only pictures of individual iris, but also general views of iris plantings, and close-ups of hybridizers and well-known iris fanciers. The prizes are offered for the best slides of any subject pertaining to iris.

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## CHANGE IN NAME

■ DUE TO a previous claim to its name, the variety MOON MIST (Wash. 1940) has been renamed FAIRY LUSTRE. This iris was introduced by the Fairmount Gardens last year and was the recipient of an H. M. award.

## OUR MEMBERS WRITE

### *Additional Notes from Southern California*

■ On the whole, Southern California had the poorest iris season I have yet seen in this section. We had a very warm winter and in the vicinity of San Bernardino, a very severe freeze on March 13, the two extremes militating against the normal procedure of iris.

The beautiful SAN GABRIEL, which always gives us our first real thrill of the season, was just coming into bloom at the time of the freeze, and many were the buds and stems which hung their heads and gave up the ghost.

Following soon came MAUNA LOA, which was determined to show its colors at all costs, and everywhere it outdid itself and made a gorgeous display. It was, of course, in evidence at all flower shows.

The season, however, seemed to confuse the clan, and some of the early varieties bloomed late, and the late ones, early, while many well-established clumps failed to bloom at all.

Early in the season a group of judges visited the gardens of Mr. Clarence G. White in Redlands, and there found many interesting seedlings, many of which showed the influence of Oncocyclus heritage. Many classed as tall bearded derive their interesting colorings from their Onco forbears.

FARCROSS is a very distinctive rich black iris which will surely make a place for itself. ELAN is a huge blue white, a little on the order of SNOW FLURRY, but, in my opinion, it is rather superior to that variety, although I saw SNOW FLURRY in two gardens, both on one-year plants. ELAN is very tall with excellent branching, has many very large flowers of splendid form, somewhat ruffled, and enjoys an extremely long blooming season. The color is a pure blue-white with a frosty lustre, giving the edges of the petals a decided silver border.

After the visit to the White garden, the group numbering 17 judges were the guests of Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Brenan in Redlands, where a delicious luncheon was served in the lovely patio.

Mrs. Ethel Livingston in San Bernardino, member of the American Iris Society for many years, has a number of fine seedlings, among them a soft pale yellow from PURISSIMA and NANCY ORNE.

I consider this to be one of the best seedlings to come to my attention. I have seen it bloom for three seasons, and it is consistently well behaved and dependable. It has about everything one may expect to find in a good iris—pleasing color, excellent branching, good form, ten or more flowers to the stalk, many stalks, height and size, and substance to spare. I have seen it bloom with abandon and without fading through rain, wind and hot sun when most other iris in the same garden folded. And when I say "hot sun" in San Bernardino, I mean *hot sun*!

A visit to the Milliken Iris Gardens in Pasadena revealed many most excellent seedlings, particularly blues, yellows and blends. MOUNTAIN SKY is a blue to conjure with, and there were several splendid yellows, with one that for clarity and brilliance seemed almost too good to be true.

On one of the visits to Pasadena, the judges were royally entertained at luncheon in Mr. Milliken's home, where Mrs. Milliken and Mrs. Donald Milliken served as gracious hostesses.

CARL C. TAYLOR

*San Bernardino, Calif.*

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### *Southwest Expands Activities*

■ I felt greatly honored that you gave space in the BULLETIN to my opinions on selection of iris worthy of awards, and to my statement of how impossible it seemed in this section for a judge to have an opportunity to view the new iris.

So many of my wishes have come true during the few months since that was written that I feel as if an Aladdin's Lamp must have been in my possession.

A new society known as "The Iris Growers" was organized by Miss Mary Thorne, who served as its organizing president and who was succeeded by Mrs. Steve Barrett.

The society has grown into a group of 32 people, which equals, or exceeds, that of any other immediate locality. The basis of membership is membership in the American Iris Society.

Miss Johnette Atkins has generously offered to donate her time and garden space to a test garden. She has received an encouraging number of letters of cooperation, and a number of plants from introducers, while the national society has appointed several new judges for this section.

With similar enthusiastic, capable organizations in every section of the country, where the new introductions could be seen and judged by intelligently informed judges—and if the basis of the awards be the requirement that a favorable number of votes proportionate to the number of judges be received from every region—then I believe the result would come nearer being an “All-American” election.

MARIAN PRICE SCRUGGS

*Dallas, Tex.*

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### *For a More Critical Rating of New Varieties*

■ As a member of the American Iris Society, I have often wondered if one must be an accredited judge appointed by the governing board of the Society to have the power of selection, of recommendation, of criticism as to the beauty, the quality, the desirability of all the new iris varieties. If not, I would like to “have my say”; that is, I feel that the onlooker may sometimes speak without prejudice, without rancor—but, of course, we know, without authority.

In perusing the April, 1940, BULLETIN, I’ve just happened on the recommendations of Mr. Geddes Douglas for minor changes in the present Iris Rating System. In every way I agree with his article, but I do not believe he has gone nearly deeply enough into the sore; he has merely healed it temporarily. The hurt of having such an iris as MUSSOLINI rated at 75, instead of at 55 or 65, is really serious.

In the majority of cases new varieties are rated between 82 and 92. How am I to gain help or satisfaction from such a series of very similar grades, having been reared in public schools and college to believe that 85 and above meant that I was doing fine work, a proud asset to the family tree? Unless such a belief was erroneous, I assume many others consider 85 and above nigh unto Phi Beta Kappa. Now, our iris family must indeed be exceptional if practically all the iris children brought into the business world this year are such smart, fine, proud offspring.

Yet, way down deep, I question the perfection of this year’s iris family, realizing how ready, willing, and anxious each proud foster father is to have his foster child presented to the iris world before someone else has a chance to introduce an almost-twin to that same society. In such haste, we must admit that error can creep into the

selections which are each year introduced to public sale. And yet if there are errors and mistakes, if there are varieties introduced which are only mediocre, or, on the other hand, if there are splendid nearly perfect varieties, we have no chart to guide us in purchasing, we have no chance to gain joy and satisfaction in knowing that some especially fine variety has been rewarded by an exceptionally fine grade. In fact, we really have to do a great deal of interpreting to place in proper grouping those iris which are not worth while, and to separate them from those especially notable ones receiving only a point or two higher in the rating chart.

The fault, I believe, rests not with the point scale of the Policy of Awards, as it is very difficult to apportion in proper ratio the intrinsic garden worth and beauty of any flower. I do not even dare to criticize the point ratio, but I do believe that the judges do not interpret these points correctly, or perhaps I should say they do not adjust them properly to the flower being judged.

If the proper thought were given to the various parts of the plant, to the habits of the plant, to the color, quality, and form of the flower, I think it would be difficult to arrive at quite such a fine total for any flower. I must emphasize again that I do not wish to criticize in any way the system of ratings which has been so carefully considered and altered from time to time by our board of directors. But I do wish to say emphatically that the judges—either out of a kindly feeling toward iris as a whole or because of a sympathetic feeling toward the introducer, or through a lack of understanding of each separate phase of the iris to be graded—do an injustice by not being more discriminating in their judgment of the worth of our new iris.

Upwards of 250 iris rated in the past 3 years have had average ratings of 82 through 92, except 5 which rated 93 average, these being PRAIRIE SUNSET, SABLE, SYMBOL, ANSWER, and MORNING SONG; and below 82 we find only 7, those being MELLOW MOON and PINK IMPERIAL at 81; MERINGUE and SIGNAL FIRES at 80; BUFFALO BILL at 77; BLENDED BEAUTY at 76, and MUSSOLINI at 75—altogether making just 12 iris out of the 82 through 92 class and only 3 of these below 80. In some sort of a comparative basis, couldn't we have MUSSOLINI in a class 10 points lower, bringing others of the less-perfect flowers down the grading line with it; so that when we reach the 86's, 87's, 88's, 89's, and 90's we will find that even some of these deserve a little less as a contrast to those very worthy ones which so deserve their very superior ratings.

With apologies to those discriminating judges who are so very careful to deduct points in the proper ratio from those iris that lack clear rich color, or are weak when either sun or rain frowns ever so delicately upon the petals, or when its growing and flowering habits are below scratch, or--and this I need to mention least of all, as it seems to be a pet in every judge's rating book--this lack of form (this alone I think is carefully pondered and properly scored by all)--yes, apologies to those judges who consider all of these qualities in an iris. Yes, there are those who do help bring some of the averages of less perfect iris down near their proper rating score. And next, apologies to my husband, who as an accredited judge, does not always follow my line of reasoning, nor does he always indorse it wholeheartedly.

GRACE H. KELLOGG

*North Granby, Mass.*

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### *Sports or Increases?*

I hesitate to comment on anything appearing in the BULLETIN, since one year's membership in the Society hardly qualifies me as an expert. Perhaps after a few years of following Messrs. Tom Williams, Geddes Douglas and Jesse Wills around, I shall be able to speak more boldly.

But anyway, may I suggest that the reference to "Iris Sports," page 30, October BULLETIN, is a bit premature--that is, until the young plants produced on the bloom stalks grow up and show some variation from their parents? I have an idea that this is merely another means by which iris increase, and that the stalk plants will be identical with their parents.

Hemerocallis fanciers are familiar with increase by "proliferations"--young plants that develop on the bloom scapes in the same manner as these iris "sports" (?). When detached and planted, the young daylilies grow up exactly like the old plants. I see no reason why the iris should do otherwise.

At any rate, it will be interesting for Mr. Sloan to watch his plants and see whether he really has sports.

S. Y. CALDWELL

*Nashville, Tenn.*

*Mrs. Herman E. Lewis, in Memoriam*

■ Mrs. Herman E. Lewis died on December 12, 1940. It is hardly possible to over-estimate her loss to the American Iris Society. I am sure that anything I may write will seem entirely inadequate to those who have known her and worked with her. The whole-hearted devotion which she gave to the Society is known to every member and officer. But because I have lived in the same town with her and she has been my friend for so long and because she has meant so much to those of us who garden in Haverhill, I shall be very glad if this brief tribute may be printed in the BULLETIN. It is difficult to realize how much she will be missed or how far her gracious hospitality and her generosity made themselves felt. Her garden was open to all who had even the slightest interest. How lavishly she expended her time and strength in sharing it with others, only those who knew her intimately can ever guess. It must be a very pleasant thought to her family that from her valuable collection went iris and other plants into almost every Haverhill garden. The memory of her unwavering enthusiasm, her welcome so delightful in its sincerity and the charming simplicity with which she gladly shared her knowledge and experience with others will always remain an inspiration to those who were privileged to know her.

ELEANOR P. JONES

*Haverhill, Mass.*

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# BULLETIN

OF THE

# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

APRIL, 1941

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# THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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## THE EDITOR'S BULLETIN BOARD

■ WE EXPECT THIS number to be in the hands of our members at a time which will be for most of them the very threshold of another iris flowering season. It is that ecstatic and all-too-fleeting period that is eagerly awaited each year by all who love the iris. Some are anxious for the unfolding of the first blossoms of hitherto unbloomed seedlings, others look forward to seeing for the first time the gorgeous novelties purchased the previous season from enticing catalogue descriptions, and still others anticipate the fulfillment of their carefully planned garden effects with the use of iris plants. For all members, we trust that the articles in this issue will prove to be of timely interest.

Once more Mr. K. D. Smith has favored us with a painstaking and carefully prepared "Unofficial Iris Symposium" for 1941. It was conducted on a different basis than that of last year and all of the accredited judges were invited to participate. The present symposium is the consensus of opinion of 73 judges and we feel it reflects fairly accurately the relative merits of the new but well-distributed varieties.

Nashville welcomes the members of the Society to the annual meeting May 9-10 and hopes that they will be able to attend in large numbers to visit its attractive gardens. Mr. Jesse Wills has written a masterful interpretation of the 1941 Policy of Awards and Rating System which we feel confident will be appreciated by the judges as much as it was by the Editor.

Mr. Robert Schreiner has furnished us with a much needed review of the intermediate iris—a group that has not received the attention it deserves. We hope that Mr. Schreiner's article will help stimulate interest in these iris and that some of the varieties mentioned will become familiar garden names in the not too distant future.

Of recent years many plantings of Japanese iris have been troubled with infestations of iris thrips, though the reason for poor blossoms was not always suspected. Mr. L. G. Utter and Mr. F. F. Smith have provided an admirable exposition on the iris thrips and how to control this pest.

We wish all of our readers a successful iris flowering season—one in which their highest hopes and expectations are fully realized.

F. W. CASSEBEER, *Editor.*



*From Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*Dubrovnik, a beautiful pink blend named after a colorful  
Yugoslavian seaport*

## UNOFFICIAL IRIS SYMPOSIUM, 1941

KENNETH D. SMITH

■ LAST YEAR I conducted an unofficial iris symposium (BULLETIN 77, pp. 3-13, April 1940). This year I present another unofficial symposium undertaken from an entirely different viewpoint: all the accredited judges of the Society, 200 of them, were sent ballots and asked to vote for what they considered the 50 best tall bearded iris, foreign or domestic, which had received an H.M. or A.M. Award from the American Iris Society. By limiting the iris in this symposium to those which had received an A.I.S. award, I believed the majority would have been sufficiently distributed to have been seen by a great many judges and also to be readily obtainable from many dealers. Such a list therefore should be helpful for anyone who desires to start a collection of the worthwhile newer varieties. I believe that tabulation of the results provides such a list inasmuch as it reflects the opinions of 73 judges of the Society.

The United States is divided by the A.I.S. into 15 regions\* with Canada as Region 16. Two judges, Mr. Cochran, of Texas, and Mr. Beck, of Tennessee, requested me to break down the tabulation into regions for they said it would be both interesting and beneficial to all concerned; therefore, in the tabulation which follows, I show not only the final vote but the votes received from each region. Regions 11, 12, and 16 are omitted because no ballots were received. After each iris is listed the year of introduction; the letter "N" signifies it had not been introduced.

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\*Region 1, New England; Region 2, New York; Region 3, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware; Region 4, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, and West Virginia; Region 5, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida; Region 6, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana; Region 7, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi; Region 8, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Region 9, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas; Region 10, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana; Region 11, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; Region 12, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico; Region 13, Washington and Oregon; Region 14, Northern California and Nevada; Region 15, Southern California; Region 16, Canada.

UNOFFICIAL SYMPOSIUM, 1941  
VARIETIES IN ORDER OF VOTES RECEIVED

	Number of Votes (73 Judges)	Region 1 9 Votes (25)	Region 2 7 Votes (15)	Region 3 2 Votes (11)	Region 4 4 Votes (14)
1. WABASH '36	63	9	7	2	4
2. AMIGO '34	62	9	5	2	4
3. CHINA MAID '36	58	8	6	1	3
4. CITY OF LINCOLN '37	55	8	5	-	4
5. GOLDEN TREASURE '36	52	6	3	1	3
6. THE RED DOUGLAS '37	52	5	3	2	3
7. SABLE '38	51	8	5	1	3
8. NARANJA '35	50	3	4	2	2
9. GREAT LAKES '38	48	7	5	1	2
10. JUNALUSKA '34	48	7	4	2	2
11. FAIR ELAINE '38	47	5	5	2	3
12. E. B. WILLIAMSON '37	46	7	3	-	-
13. ANGELUS '37	44	4	6	-	1
14. CHRISTABEL '36	44	6	4	1	3
15. GOLDEN MAJESTY '38	44	8	5	2	3
16. PRAIRIE SUNSET '40	43	4	2	1	1
17. CALIFORNIA GOLD '33	42	6	4	2	2
18. MATTERHORN '38	41	4	2	1	2
19. SHINING WATERS '33	41	6	5	-	2
20. MOUNT WASHINGTON '37	40	4	5	1	3
21. GLORIOLE '33	40	7	3	1	2
22. COPPER LUSTRE '34	39	7	5	-	1
23. LIGHTHOUSE '36	38	4	2	-	2
24. MISSOURI '33	38	6	5	-	1
25. GARDEN MAGIC '36	37	2	3	-	1
26. MIDWEST GEM '37	37	-	2	2	1
27. SIERRA BLUE '32	37	5	4	1	2
28. CHEERIO '34	36	4	3	1	2
29. FRANK ADAMS '37	36	6	1	2	3
30. ROSY WINGS '35	36	7	2	-	3
31. RED GLEAM '39	35	5	1	1	4
32. SNOW KING '35	34	4	3	-	1
33. EXCLUSIVE '37	33	7	1	1	1

Region 5 4 Votes (12)	Region 6 11 Votes (14)	Region 7 5 Votes (19)	Region 8 1 Vote (3)	Region 9 18 Votes (39)	Region 10 3 Votes (6)	Region 13 4 Votes (11)	Region 14 3 Votes (6)	Region 15 2 Votes (9)
4	8	3	1	16	1	4	2	2
3	10	3	1	15	1	4	3	2
3	9	3	1	15	2	3	2	2
2	8	2	1	16	2	4	3	1
4	11	4	1	14	1	2	2	1
3	9	2	1	16	2	4	2	1
1	10	2	1	14	1	4	1	1
3	8	3	1	15	2	3	3	1
3	10	3	1	11	1	4	1	1
1	9	2	1	11	2	4	3	1
3	6	3	1	12	1	4	3	1
1	9	5	1	13	2	2	3	1
3	10	4	1	9	1	4	1	1
1	10	5	1	9	2	1	1	1
2	4	4	1	6	2	4	3	1
2	7	2	1	16	1	4	3	1
1	8	1	1	9	3	1	3	1
2	8	1	1	14	1	4	2	1
1	8	1	1	10	3	1	3	2
4	6	1	1	8	1	3	3	1
3	9	2	1	6	1	3	2	1
2	6	1	1	7	1	4	3	1
2	6	5	1	8	1	4	3	1
4	4	2	1	8	2	1	3	1
2	9	3	1	11	1	4	1	1
1	6	1	1	14	2	4	3	1
1	5	1	1	9	2	2	3	2
4	5	2	1	10	1	1	2	1
3	8	1	1	5	2	2	2	1
4	7	1	1	9	1	2	1	1
1	7	2	1	9	1	4	1	1
1	9	1	1	14	1	1	1	1
2	7	2	1	7	1	2	1	1

## UNOFFICIAL SYMPOSIUM, 1941 (Continued)

## VARIETIES IN ORDER OF VOTES RECEIVED

	Number of Votes (73 Judges)	Region 1 9 Votes (25)	Region 2 7 Votes (15)	Region 3 2 Votes (11)	Region 4 4 Votes (14)
34. MOROCCO ROSE '37	32	1	3	-	1
35. RADIANT '36	32	5	2	-	2
36. SHAH JEHAN '32	32	3	2	1	3
37. RUTH POLLOCK '39	31	2	2	-	1
38. ELSA SASS '39	30	2	3	-	1
39. GOLDEN HIND '34	29	3	2	1	3
40. LOUVois '36	29	6	3	1	2
41. SNOW FLURRY '39	29	6	-	-	3
42. MATULA '39	28	1	2	1	-
43. GOLDEN FLEECE '40	27	1	1	1	1
44. MARQUITA '31	27	2	4	-	1
45. MING YELLOW '38	26	2	1	1	1
46. OLD PARCHMENT '39	26	3	3	-	1
47. AUBANEL '35	24	4	3	-	1
48. MAY DAY '39	24	3	-	-	-
49. TIFFANY '38	24	2	3	1	1
50. BALMUNG '39	23	1	2	1	1
51. YELLOW JEWEL '39	23	6	4	1	1
52. BRUNHILDE '34	22	3	2	-	-
53. OZONE '35	21	2	1	1	1
54. WHITE GODDESS '36	21	6	2	1	1
55. EASTER MORN '31	20	2	3	-	1
56. GOLDEN SPIKE '40	20	1	-	-	1
57. JASMANIA '35	20	5	-	-	-
58. SIEGFRIED '36	20	-	1	-	1
59. STARDOM N	20	1	-	-	3
60. BLUE SPIRE '38	19	2	2	2	-
61. MOONGLO '35	19	2	1	2	3
62. ROYAL COACH '39	19	2	3	1	1
63. SONNY BOY '39	19	2	4	2	2
64. DUBROVNIK '38	18	3	3	-	1
65. HAPPY DAYS '34	18	-	1	-	2
66. JEAN CAYEUX '31	18	3	2	-	-

Region 5 4 Votes (12)		Region 6 11 Votes (14)		Region 7 5 Votes (19)		Region 8 1 Vote (3)		Region 9 18 Votes (39)		Region 10 3 Votes (6)		Region 15 4 Votes (11)		Region 14 3 Votes (6)		Region 15 2 Votes (9)	
3	1	7	1	4	1	1	9	12	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	3	1
1	1	3	8	2	1	1	6	12	2	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	1
1	1	3	6	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	1	1	1
1	1	5	5	1	1	1	10	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	1	1	1
1	1	2	2	2	1	1	9	7	1	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	2
1	1	2	2	1	1	1	7	8	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	1
1	1	4	4	1	1	1	10	12	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
2	5	5	6	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
1	3	6	6	1	1	1	7	7	1	1	3	3	3	3	2	2	1
1	3	3	3	1	1	1	7	7	1	1	4	4	4	4	1	1	1
1	3	3	4	1	1	1	3	8	1	1	3	3	3	3	1	1	1
1	1	4	1	1	1	1	10	12	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
1	1	3	3	1	1	1	8	8	1	1	4	4	4	4	1	1	1
1	1	3	1	1	1	1	8	10	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
1	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
1	1	5	1	2	1	1	4	4	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
2	3	3	2	1	1	1	4	4	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
2	4	4	1	1	1	1	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
1	4	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	5	5	1	1	1	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
1	1	5	1	1	1	1	9	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
1	3	3	3	1	1	1	8	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	4	1	1	1	1	7	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	6	6	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	4	4	1	1	1	1	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	5	5	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	3	3	3	1	1	1	6	6	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1
1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1

UNOFFICIAL SYMPOSIUM, 1941 (Continued)  
VARIETIES IN ORDER OF VOTES RECEIVED

	Number of Votes (73 Judges)	Region 1 9 Votes (25)	Region 2 7 Votes (15)	Region 3 2 Votes (11)	Region 4 4 Votes (14)
67. MARY E. NICHOLLS '39	18	1	2	2	3
68. GUDRUN '30	17	1	3	1	1
69. MOUNT CLOUD '36	17	5	2	1	1
70. PERSIA '29	17	1	1	1	1
71. SPUN GOLD '40	17	-	1	-	-
72. GARDEN FLAME N	16	1	-	-	1
73. WEST POINT '39	16	-	3	1	1
74. BROWN THRASHER N	15	1	2	-	2
75. STELLA POLARIS '39	15	5	2	-	1
76. VALOR '32	15	2	5	2	3
77. FLORENTINE '37	14	6	3	-	1
78. RAMESES '29	14	-	1	1	2
79. RED VALOR '39	14	1	2	1	1
80. VIOLET CROWN '31	14	2	1	-	-
81. CAROLINE BURR '40	13	6	3	-	-
82. CHOSEN '37	13	-	3	-	-
83. CLARIBEL '36	13	1	1	-	-
84. DEPUTE NOMBLOT '29	13	2	-	1	2
85. MISS CALIFORNIA '37	13	2	3	-	-
86. MADAME LOUIS AUREAU '34	13	2	4	-	-
87. MONADNOCK '37	13	-	1	-	1
88. AZTEC COPPER '39	12	2	3	-	-
89. SEDUCTION '33	12	1	2	-	1
90. GLEN ELLEN '39	11	-	3	1	1
91. ORLOFF '38	11	1	-	1	-
92. THE BISHOP '37	11	2	3	-	1
93. THE GUARDSMAN '39	11	-	1	-	2
94. WAVERLY '36	11	3	2	1	1
95. COPPER CRYSTAL '38	10	3	3	-	1
96. MELITZA '40	10	3	2	-	1
97. PALE MOONLIGHT '31	10	1	2	1	2
98. STAINED GLASS '39	10	2	3	-	-
99. TREASURE ISLAND '37	10	-	-	-	-

Region 5 4 Votes (12)		Region 6 11 Votes (14)		Region 7 5 Votes (19)		Region 8 1 Vote (3)		Region 9 18 Votes (39)		Region 10 3 Votes (6)		Region 13 1 Votes (11)		Region 14 3 Votes (6)		Region 15 2 Votes (9)	
1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	10	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	9	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	2	4	4	4	4	8	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	5	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
3	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1
1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Region 9 has the greatest number of judges, 39, while Region 1 has the second highest, 25. Believing that it will be of interest to both regions, I have compiled the tabulation of the "first 25" iris in both. Statistics are as follows:

Region 1: nine ballots received; four judges not visiting outside of their own region; one judge visiting one additional region, two visiting two, one visiting three, and one visiting six; two of these judges visited Region 9 and three visited Region 6.

Region 9: 18 ballots received; 11 judges not visiting outside of their own region (this region, by the way, covers five states and includes gardens of quite a few hybridizers); four judges visiting one additional region, one visiting two, and two visiting three; however, none of these judges visited Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7.

<i>Region 1</i> (9 judges voting)	<i>Region 9</i> (18 judges voting)	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1. AMIGO -----	9 CITY OF LINCOLN -----	9	16
2. WABASH -----	9 PRAIRIE SUNSET -----	9	16
3. CHINA MAID -----	8 THE RED DOUGLAS -----	8	16
4. CITY OF LINCOLN -----	8 WABASH -----	8	16
5. GOLDEN MAJESTY -----	8 AMIGO -----	8	15
6. SABLE -----	8 CHINA MAID -----	8	15
7. COPPER LUSTRE -----	7 NARANJA -----	7	15
8. E. B. WILLIAMSON -----	7 RUTH POLLOCK -----	7	15
9. EXCLUSIVE -----	7 GOLDEN TREASURE -----	7	14
10. GLORIOLE -----	7 MATTERHORN -----	7	14
11. GREAT LAKES -----	7 MIDWEST GEM -----	7	14
12. JUNALUSKA -----	7 SABLE -----	7	14
13. ROSY WINGS -----	7 SNOW KING -----	7	14
14. CALIFORNIA GOLD -----	6 E. B. WILLIAMSON -----	6	13
15. CAROLINE BURR -----	6 GOLDEN FLEECE -----	6	13
16. CHRISTABEL -----	6 FAIR ELAINE -----	6	12
17. FLORENTINE -----	6 GOLDEN SPIKE -----	6	12
18. FRANK ADAMS -----	6 GARDEN MAGIC -----	6	11
19. GOLDEN TREASURE -----	6 GREAT LAKES -----	6	11
20. LOUVOIS -----	6 JUNALUSKA -----	6	11
21. MISSOURI -----	6 SHAH JEHAN -----	6	11
22. SHINING WATERS -----	6 CHEERIO -----	6	10
23. SNOW FLURRY -----	6 ELSA SASS -----	6	10

24. WHITE GODDESS	6	MATULA	10
25. YELLOW JEWEL	6	MAY DAY	10
26.		SHINING WATERS	10
27.		SPUN GOLD	10

When I sent out the ballots for this unofficial symposium, I asked each judge to write on his ballot the regions, other than his own, which he had visited during the 1940 iris season. From the 73 ballots received, 26 judges stated that they had not visited outside of their own territory, while only 20 had visited one adjoining region. Several judges wrote in and asked "Why?"; my reply is that last year several people told me the symposium would be unfair to the newer iris because their scarcity, and hence lack of distribution, would prevent the majority of judges from seeing them. However, my point was that if the judges traveled a great many of these iris would be seen. With this year's symposium, I have made still another tabulation of those judges visiting three or more regions other than their own. There were only 11 of these, two from Region 1, three from Region 2, two from Region 4, two from Region 6, and two from Region 9. We find these judges covered a great deal of territory, with four judges visiting Region 1, six Region 2, three Region 3, six Region 4, six Region 5, nine Region 6, seven Region 7, one Region 8, eight Region 9, two Region 14, two Region 15, and one Region 16. The tabulation given below finds 44 iris receiving five or more votes; after each iris I have listed in parenthesis its standing in the main symposium.

<i>Votes</i>		<i>Votes</i>				
1. 11	FAIR ELAINE	(11)	8	YELLOW JEWEL	(51)	
11	GREAT LAKES	(9)	14.	7	GOLDEN TREASURE (5)	
3. 10	CITY OF LINCOLN	(4)	7	PRAIRIE SUNSET	(16)	
10	GOLDEN MAJESTY	(15)	16.	6	ANGELUS	(13)
10	SABLE	(7)	6	AUBANEL	(47)	
6.	CHINA MAID	(3)	6	BALMUNG	(50)	
9	WABASH	(1)	6	BROWN THRASHER	(74)	
8.	AMIGO	(2)	6	JUNALUSKA	(10)	
8	CHRISTABEL	(14)	6	MATTERHORN	(18)	
8	ELSA SASS	(38)	6	OLD PARCHMENT	(46)	
8	Mt. WASHINGTON	(20)	6	THE RED DOUGLAS	(6)	
8	SONNY BOY	(63)	6	TIFFANY	(49)	

	6	WHITE GODDESS ... (54)	5	MELITZA ..... (96)
26.	5	BLUE SPIRE ..... (60)	5	NARANJA ..... (8)
	5	CAROLINE BURR ... (81)	5	RADIANT ..... (35)
	5	COPPER CRYSTAL ... (95)	5	RED GLEAM ..... (31)
	5	E. B. WILLIAMSON (12)	5	ROSY WINGS ..... (30)
	5	FLORENTINE ..... (77)	5	SHAH JEHAN ..... (36)
	5	FRANK ADAMS ..... (29)	5	SHINING WATERS (19)
	5	GOLDEN FLEECE ... (43)	5	SNOW FLURRY ..... (41)
	5	GLORIOLE ..... (21)	5	STELLA POLARIS ... (75)
	5	LIGHTHOUSE ..... (23)	44.	5 WEST POINT ..... (73)

Fifteen of these iris rank below the first 44 of my unofficial symposium. The majority are comparatively new introductions and may be seen only in certain regions. If the judges do not travel, these iris cannot be seen, and this again brings up the question of distribution. New iris have two ways of being judged and ranked: first, the judges travel to the hybridizers gardens and, second, the hybridizer sends these new introductions to gardens scattered in six or seven regions where the judges can see them without much traveling. Both systems have their drawbacks, and the ideal situation is when an iris fancier happens to live in that vicinity. For example, Region 9 has the garden of Junius Fishburn at Roanoke, Va., where I believe the largest collection of recent iris in the world may be seen, and in Region 7, at Nashville, Tenn., are the gardens of Jesse Wills and Geddes Douglas and the commercial garden of Tom Williams, where most of the recent introductions may be seen. Any judge visiting both of these regions will find that he has seen practically 100 per cent of the modern iris.

One judge wrote: "It is my contention that no judge, however well qualified, should send in ratings unless he has had an opportunity to study the same variety in several locations," while another judge from the same region writes: "To suggest that one should travel to other districts to have proper information about an iris is a definite criticism of the flower. We should have trial gardens where one could go and see all of the new introductions."

Is this symposium worth while? Judging from the letters I have received, I believe most of the members think it is, and quite a few have given valuable suggestions. I believe that if another symposium were to be undertaken, all introduced iris should be eligible

and the judges should have the opportunity of voting not only for 50 tall bearded, but also for ten other than tall bearded iris.

### *Interesting Statistics*

All of us realize that iris are making decided progress, but few of us may realize what this symposium has shown; for example, we find that of 99 iris, 68 are varieties introduced within the last five years, and in the traveled judges' symposium, we find that, of 44 iris, 36 have also been introduced within the last five years.

There were 238 American tall bearded iris which received an H.M. Award from the A.I.S. from 1931 through 1940. Thirty-four of these received no votes in this symposium, 20 received one vote, and 16, two votes.

Only seven judges out of the 73 sent in perfect ballots; the others listed one or more varieties that had not received the necessary award, or listed varieties of other than tall bearded iris that had received awards. For example, the Dykes Medal winners SAN FRANCISCO and DAUNTLESS each received 18 votes, but were ineligible as they had never received an H.M. Award. Other ineligible iris receiving a high number of votes were ORMOHR with 35, and LOS ANGELES with 28. An invaluable reference book which each judge should own is the new *Check List* published by the Society, which may be obtained from the secretary for \$3.00.

Broken up into regions, the results do not seem to give any conclusive evidence that any one group of iris does better in one region than another, with the possible exception of Region 15 (Southern California) where totally different growing conditions prevail. However, in looking over the ballots received, I have found that where the judges have not traveled and seen other iris in the same color classification, any discrepancy that appears seems to be due to the fact that these particular iris have not been distributed in that region, rather than because of climatic conditions. For example, on my visit to Regions 6 and 9, I did not find that GOLDEN MAJESTY was distributed as it was in other regions; consequently, those judges who did not travel outside of Regions 6 and 9 perhaps did not have the opportunity of seeing it in many places and could not vote for it. This is decidedly reflected in those regions in the votes it received in comparison to other yellows.

AMIGO, which was introduced as a tall bearded iris, received an

H.M. as a tall bearded iris; yet an A.M. as an intermediate. SONNY BOY, introduced as an intermediate, received an H.M. as a tall bearded iris. Both are eligible in this symposium because the award of H.M. was given as a tall bearded iris.

Only five iris, WABASH, AMIGO, CHINA MAID, NARANJA, and CALIFORNIA GOLD, received votes from every region.

One judge wrote he would like to see a list in the BULLETIN of all the iris that had received awards from the Society. BULLETIN 60, pp. 62-66, lists all awards through 1934, and p. 104 lists the 1935 awards; BULLETIN 63, p. 62, lists the 1936 awards; BULLETIN 66, p. 87, lists the 1937 awards; BULLETIN 71, p. 37, lists the 1938 awards; BULLETIN 73, p. 65, lists the 1939 awards; BULLETIN 78, p. 3, lists the 1940 awards.

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## A WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

GEDDES DOUGLAS

■ THE NASHVILLE MEMBERS of the American Iris Society are happy to invite you to be their guests this year at the Annual Meeting to be held May 9-10.

Headquarters for the meeting will be at the Hotel Hermitage. Members are urged to make hotel reservation immediately since the local hotels are expecting many visitors for the opening of Percy Warner Steeplechase Course the weekend of May 10.

In planning this Annual Meeting, the Nashville members have been guided by the following considerations: first, that one attends the meeting to see new iris, to renew memories of older ones, and to see iris gardens; second, one attends the meeting to renew old friendships and to make new ones. With these thoughts in mind, two tours have been arranged to visit eight iris gardens, and interspersed with these visits are informal "get-togethers" where there is much leisure for mingling and discussion. There will be no set time for arrivals or departures, other than the exigencies of transportation. There are a great many iris in Nashville; how good they

are, the visitors will be at liberty to judge. In any case, the Nashville members invite you to come to the Annual Meeting this year, to say and do what you wish, and to stay as long as you want. They will be delighted to have you.

## PROGRAM 1941 ANNUAL MEETING

### FIRST DAY, MAY 9

Get-together Breakfast at Hotel Hermitage.

Visit to the Garden of Mrs. J. H. Kirkland.

Visit to the Garden of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wills.

Luncheon at Bellemeade Country Club—

A. I. S. members will be guests of Nashville Iris Association.

Visit to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth Caldwell and to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hill.

Visit to Dauntless Hill, country estate of Mr. Clarence Connell. Members will be guests of Mr. Connell at a Barbecue Supper.

### SECOND DAY, MAY 10

Visit to the Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Horn.

Visit to the Garden of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Williams.

Luncheon at Stork Club, Brentwood, Tenn.

Visit to the iris plantings of Mrs. T. A. Washington at the Washington Farm.

Visit to the Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Geddes Douglas.

Banquet and Annual Meeting at Hotel Hermitage.



*Top—A bed of recent novelties in Jesse Wills' garden. Bottom—A vista at Dauntless Hill, the country estate of Clarence Connell.*

## NASHVILLE'S IRIS GARDENS

F. W. CASSEBEER

■ PERHAPS NO OTHER city of its size can point with pride to as many iris plantings as Nashville, and the editor feels that its citizens are quite justified in terming it "The Iris City." Situated in pleasing rolling Tennessee country, Nashville seems to be singularly blessed with good growing conditions for iris. It is not surprising, therefore, that the city abounds with beautiful gardens featuring iris, and even some of the principal highways leading from Nashville are lined for miles into the countryside with roadside plantings of its favorite flower. For many years some of the leading hybridizers have lived here and made the city famous for good new iris. Visitors to the Annual Meeting can look forward to seeing the best in bearded iris whether it be named varieties or seedlings.

The first garden on the visiting program arranged for those who attend the Annual Meeting is that of Mrs. J. H. Kirkland. Here, in back of a charming Southern mansion, are planted large beds each filled with one of the late Chancellor Kirkland's favorite originations. Beyond is the beautiful partially shaded meadow where the Chancellor formerly raised his famous seedlings, most of which have since been removed to the commercial plantings of Mr. T. A. Williams.

The next stop on the tour of Nashville gardens will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse E. Wills on Bellemeade Boulevard. Mr. Wills' garden will be of especial interest to iris fanciers since he has one of the most complete collections of newer varieties in the country. They are very attractively displayed, some in large clumps of a single variety with backgrounds of shrubs and evergreens, others in mixed flower borders against brick walls, and the latest treasures in beds devoted exclusively to iris. Behind the house and separated from the main garden by a wall and hedges is a considerable planting of seedlings. Mr. Wills has become intensively interested in hybridizing and expects this season to have an unusually large number of seedling plants blooming for the first time to greet the judges and visitors.

Following luncheon, the party will visit the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth Caldwell. Many of the latest novelties and Mr.

Caldwell's own seedlings feature this gently sloping garden which has a charming layout. Immediately adjoining is the extensive garden of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hill. It contains, perhaps, the largest privately owned formal planting of iris. Innumerable strips of iris are beautifully arranged by color in a spacious level plot enclosed by hedges. Many of the beds are given over solely to the Dykes medal winners of the past decade, some of which are planted in large quantities.

Dauntless Hill, on the outskirts of Nashville, where the American Iris Society visitors will be the guests of Mr. Clarence Connell for a barbecue supper on the evening of the first day of the meeting, is a spot of enchanting beauty. Here Mr. Connell has terraced a wooded knoll with a lovely view to make his iris garden on several different levels. The flower beds, which also contain other plant material besides iris, are nicely planned and landscaped with shrubs and evergreens. Atop the hill, Mr. Connell has built a charming compact country home whose interior is beautifully decorated and graced with exquisite pieces of furniture made by the owner himself. In the garden the effect created by the slanting rays of the late afternoon sun is not easily forgotten.

To start the second day, the visitors will begin with the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Horn near the golf club. Here is an excellent example of the use of iris in a large formal plan, and the setting is an especially effective one because of the wonderful specimen trees in and around the garden.

Next in line are the Iris City Gardens of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Williams. These are the most attractive commercial plantings it has ever been our privilege to see. They consist of a series of gardens covering about eight acres, and are separated from each other by tall evergreen hedges that are ornamental as backgrounds and useful as windbreaks. The iris are planted in well-arranged beds cut in large plots of grass. In addition to a superb collection of newer varieties, visitors will find many seedlings from crosses made by Chancellor Kirkland and by Mr. Williams himself. Most of the iris are well established two-year clumps and should make a superb display for the benefit of those attending the annual meeting.

In the afternoon, at the Washington Farm, the visitors will see a lovely hillside field of bearded iris sloping to a small winding stream planted with moisture-loving types of iris, prominent among which are large masses of the yellow *I. pseudacorus*. The plants at the



*Courtesy of T. A. Williams*

*A group of visitors to Nashville in 1939: Left to right—Jesse Wills, Clarence Connell, Franklin Cook, Mrs. Geddes Douglas, Mrs. J. E. Wills, Barbara Pilkington, Dr. Alford, Pres. Pilkington, Miss Pilkington, S. Y. Caldwell, Mrs. J. E. Hires, Mrs. H. L. Grant, W. Vestal, Mrs. Worthington, Mrs. Thomas Nesmith, T. A. Williams, and Miss Vestal, in the Williams' display garden.*

Washington Farm were for the most part moved last year from the town home of Mrs. T. A. Washington, and consist largely of the famed seedlings and varieties of the late Mr. T. A. Washington.

Coming as a fitting climax to the two-day tour of the Nashville gardens will be the visit to Mr. and Mrs. Geddes Douglas' charming place. There the iris are planted on a terraced hillside garden interspersed with apple trees that afford welcome shade in which to jot down the notes on the iris that are in bloom. Mr. Douglas' own seedlings and introductions make up a considerable portion of the many fine iris in his collection. Again, this is the kind of garden that shows to best advantage by the light of the early morning or late afternoon sun.

### *Gardens to be seen en route to or from Nashville*

While no formal pilgrimage or trek in connection with Annual Meeting has been planned this year, there are a number of noteworthy iris gardens that are readily accessible to the Nashville visitors either before or after the meeting. Quite a number of cordial invitations have been received from members of the Society who live in the Southeastern states welcoming visitors to their gardens.

Within comparatively close motoring distance is the iris garden of Mr. Clint McDade at Chattanooga. It is truly an outstanding garden comprising several acres with a great variety of flowers and shrubs planted along winding paths. There are many rhododendrons and azaleas, and a remarkable box hedge. He has a very large collection of recent introductions and seedlings of tall bearded iris, and is noted for his fall blooming varieties. At Mr. McDade's the peak of bloom is several days earlier than Nashville, and his garden should be visited before the meeting.

At Corinth, Miss., Mr. Milton Rubel has a most unusual iris planting. Here are to be found acres of iris of many types—large masses of Siberian iris seedlings, fields of Japanese iris, and a good collection of tall bearded iris, principally the Sass varieties and seedlings.

Mrs. Henry L. Grant writes that Dr. Grant has recently returned from Florida greatly improved in health and would be delighted to have A. I. S. members visit the Grant Gardens, Anchorage, Ky., at the time of the Annual Meeting. Their season is generally about a week later than Nashville's, and the Grants believe their garden will be at the height of its bloom just after the Annual Meeting.

Visitors will be especially welcome at Mrs. L. J. Blake's lovely place, "Three Oaks," at Spartansburg, S. C. This charming garden is noteworthy for its iris Hall of Fame and the planting of all worthwhile iris by color groups. For a more complete description of "Three Oaks" see BULLETIN 80, p. 16. While the best bloom at Spartansburg is perhaps a few days in advance of Nashville, we understand that a later date will still show Mrs. Blake's garden to excellent advantage.

At Durham, N. C., will be found the iris collection of Dr. F. M. Hanes and the Sarah P. Duke Memorial Garden, both of the Duke University Campus. And at Hillsboro, N. C., only 12 miles distant, there is the planting of Mr. T. N. Webb. All of these are well worth seeing and should not be missed by those who have the time

to spare. The best bloom here about coincides with that of Nashville.

Farther north is the beautiful garden of Mr. and Mrs. Junius P. Fishburn in Roanoke, Virginia. It contains as complete a collection of the newer tall bearded iris as one can conceive, and is truly a happy hunting ground for the iris fancier. Roanoke is on the Lee Highway on the direct route northeast from Tennessee toward Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. The Fishburn home and garden are at 631 Wellington Avenue, approximately 2½ miles directly south of Hotel Roanoke. Mr. Fishburn has informed the BULLETIN that his bloom is generally at its peak five to seven days later than Nashville's — in normal years about May 15 — and that he undoubtedly will have some early bloom to show visitors going directly northeast immediately after the Nashville meeting. Mr. Fishburn also suggests that those iris enthusiasts who want to reach his garden at the time of its peak bloom might well take the drive through the Smokies into the Carolinas for a few days or possibly visit Williamsburg and Richmond before turning west to Roanoke. He expects to attend the Nashville meeting and will be glad to give anyone interested full and late information about his garden.

Located on highway 11-W at Kingsport, Tennessee, on the direct route from Nashville to Roanoke, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Hargrave have issued an invitation to travelers to Mr. Fishburn's to break their trip for a short respite to visit their garden at 718 Yadkin Street.

There is also a cordial invitation to visit Norfolk, Va., to see the iris plantings and seedlings of Mr. Smith and Mr. Denby; and the gardens of Mr. Stephens and Mr. Van Arsdale at nearby Newport News.

Mr. H. C. Bland is eager for all members and friends of the American Iris Society to visit Sumter, S. C., to see the gorgeous bloom of Japanese iris in the extensive plantings at Swan Lake this spring. The Swan Lake Garden, which was more fully described in BULLETIN 79, is open to the public and is visited annually by upwards of 40,000 enthusiastic persons. The Japanese iris here are generally at their best between May 15 and May 30.

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## JAPANESE IRIS SECTION COMMITTEE

■ A JAPANESE IRIS section committee of The American Iris Society has been established by the directors. Members are: Chairman, Dr. George M. Reed, Curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. Thomas A. Nesmith, of Lowell, Mass., and Mr. H. C. Bland of Sumter, S. C.

The aims of this committee are not only to stimulate interest in Japanese iris, but also to straighten out and establish definite nomenclature for Japanese iris now being listed under two or more names; to encourage those who are hybridizing to register names of their Japanese iris seedlings with the Society; to plan pilgrimages to Japanese iris gardens during the blooming season, and to prepare special articles on this group for publication in the BULLETIN.

Japanese iris can be grown successfully in many of the regions of the American Iris Society, and those who are especially interested in them or who wish to cooperate with the committee in its work are requested to notify the chairman of the committee, Dr. George M. Reed.

### *Japanese Iris Displays*

Mention of the famous Japanese iris display at the Swan Lake Garden, Sumter, S. C., has already been made in this BULLETIN. Every one interested in Japanese iris who can possibly spare the time should not fail to see this beautiful planting in the South.

Members of the Society in the vicinity of New York can avail themselves of the opportunity to visit the display of Japanese iris at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Farmingdale Iris Garden on the grounds of the State Institute of Applied Agriculture at Farmingdale, Long Island. Usually, the flowers are at their best the latter part of June. In past years the Long Island Horticultural Society has held an informal meeting at Japanese iris time on the grounds of the State Institute.

Members in New England should arrange to visit the Japanese iris collection of the Fairmount Gardens at Lowell, Mass. A large number of varieties are available for inspection. The blooming period is usually in the early part of July.

Later, more definite information regarding the time of visiting the iris will be made available, especially to those who indicate to the chairman their interest in visiting the displays.

## 1941 POLICY OF AWARDS AND RATINGS

1. The following regulations cancel all previous regulations in reference to ratings and awards.
2. The Board of Directors shall appoint accredited judges in various parts of the country.
3. The Board of Directors is given full power to grant the awards of the American Iris Society and award the Dykes Medal, subject to the conditions set forth in the following regulations.

### 4. *Highly Commended*

The Board of Directors shall give Highly Commended to varieties *not introduced at the time of judging* which receive five or more recommendations from accredited judges subject to the regulations in paragraph 19a below. Judges shall not make more than ten recommendations for the award of Highly Commended.

### 5. *Honorable Mention*

The Board of Directors shall give Honorable Mention to registered varieties *introduced at the time of judging or in course of introduction* which receive seven or more recommendations from Accredited Judges in the case of tall bearded iris, or five or more recommendations in the case of iris other than tall bearded, subject to the regulations in paragraph 19b below. Judges shall not recommend more than 14 tall bearded iris for the Honorable Mention award.

### 6. *Award of Merit*

The Board of Directors may give not more than ten (unless ties occur) Awards of Merit yearly to American iris, of which not more than eight may be tall bearded iris. No more than two Awards of Merit may be given yearly to American iris other than tall bearded. However, if two or more eligible iris are tied in number of votes for last place, all the iris so tied shall be given the Award of Merit. Judges should not make more than eight recommendations for the Award to tall bearded iris, and not more than two to iris other than tall bearded, subject to the regulations in paragraph 19c below. Preference will be given to iris seen in widely scattered gardens and, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Award may be withheld from a variety which all or most of the judges saw in the same garden.

### 7. *Dykes Memorial Medal*

The Iris Society of England has offered the American Iris Society the Dykes Memorial Medal yearly. This is the highest award that can be given to a new iris. Upon the recommendation of ten

or more accredited judges and subject to the regulations in paragraph 19d below, the Committee on Awards may award this medal yearly subject to the confirmation of the Board of Directors. The Medal should go to an iris widely distributed and judged in widely scattered sections.

8. All of the above refers to iris originated in the United States and Canada. In addition, the Board of Directors may give not more than five awards of Merit yearly to iris of foreign origin. Such awards shall be given only upon the recommendation of at least seven accredited judges and subject to the regulation in paragraph 19e below.

#### *Duties of Committee on Awards*

9. The Committee on Awards shall study each year the system of ratings and awards and make its recommendations of general policy to the Board of Directors.

10. The Committee on Awards shall submit yearly to the Board of Directors a list of accredited judges for the various districts.

11. The Committee on Awards may recommend the appointment by the Directors of a Tabulator or a Chairman of a Sub-committee on Tabulation, whose duties will be to tabulate the judges' reports received up to and including July 5 and shall furnish complete tabulated information to the Committee on Awards as soon as possible thereafter.

12. The Committee on Awards shall receive and study carefully the reports of the Sub-committee on Tabulation and on the basis of this study, shall make its recommendations to the Board of Directors. After approval by the Board of Directors the Committee shall prepare an official list of Awards, a copy of which is to be furnished to members of the Society either by direct mail or by inclusion in a BULLETIN.

#### *Instructions for Accredited Judges*

13. Judges are requested to send ratings, recommendations, and reports to the Tabulator on or before July 5.

14. Judges are requested to rate new iris which have not yet received a permanent rating, particularly those varieties listed as eligible for a permanent rating on the back of the rating ballot and other varieties introduced in the year 1938, 1939, and 1940, or to be introduced in 1941. Judges may rate registered seedlings or seedlings which will be named and registered unless the breeder requests

that no rating be made on the variety. Judges are asked not to turn in ratings on plants which plainly are poorly grown or are not fully established. A list of new iris which have already received a permanent rating in 1939 and 1940 is published on the rating ballot.

15. Iris in gardens are to be rated under the numerical system using the point score system listed below as a basis in arriving at the total. The judge's ballot will provide only for the total rating. That is, if an iris is rated 86 on the basis of the point score system listed below, the accredited judge will insert the total rating of 86 instead of itemizing the individual points of flower, stalk, and plant as to color, vigor, etc.

16. No rating of a tall bearded or intermediate variety will be published unless it has been voted on by at least five judges. No rating of Siberian, species, hybrids, and dwarf iris will be published unless it has been voted on by at least three judges. It will be the policy of the Board to keep confidential all reports of the judges. An individual judge, however, may use his own discretion about giving out his own ratings.

17. Providing the variety voted on has been introduced, 20 or more judges' ratings for a variety in one year will be considered a permanent rating which will be subject to change only by a symposium rating.

18. Judges are requested to send to the editor descriptive comments on all outstanding varieties. The comments will be published in the BULLETIN over their signatures (or without signatures if requested).

19. Judges are requested to make recommendations for awards as follows (paragraphs a, b, c, and d apply only to iris originating in America) :

- (a) *Highly Commended.* Highly Commended is the award of the American Iris Society for promising varieties not introduced at the time of judging. Judges may make recommendations at their discretion on seedlings either seen growing in a garden or judged by specimen stalks at exhibitions or elsewhere. A judge should consider his recommendation for Highly Commended as equivalent to recommending the variety as worthy of introduction. Five or more recommendations from accredited judges are required for an iris to receive this award whether the variety is tall bearded, intermediate, dwarf, hybrid, or species.
- (b) *Honorable Mention.* Recommendations for Honorable Mention may be made for iris already introduced at the time of judging or that will be introduced on or before June 15, 1941. Judges may make recom-

mendations in the following classes: Tall bearded, intermediates, dwarf, fall blooming, Siberian iris, various iris species, and hybrids. Seven or more recommendations from Accredited Judges will be necessary before a tall bearded iris may receive Honorable Mention, and five or more recommendations will be necessary for iris other than tall bearded.

(e) *Award of Merit.* Recommendations for Award of Merit shall be made only to iris registered officially which have received an Honorable Mention award and which were introduced during the five-year period beginning with 1935 and ending with 1939. The Award of Merit is to be considered as a national rather than a local or regional award, indicating that the iris was outstanding in widely separate regions. No tall bearded iris may receive the Award of Merit unless it has been recommended by ten or more accredited judges, and no iris other than the tall bearded may receive it unless it has been recommended by seven or more accredited judges. A list of the varieties eligible for the Award of Merit in 1941 is printed on the Award Ballot.

(d) *The Dykes Medal.* Recommendations for the Dykes Medal shall be made only to iris registered officially which have received an Honorable Mention award, and which have been in commerce four years. In 1941 this four-year period shall be considered to cover iris introduced in 1937.

Under American Iris Society rules the introduction date for varieties introduced in America is based on the year an iris is offered for general sale in a catalogue, list, advertisement or advertisement in A.I.S. BULLETINS. Sales in a garden or by letter without advertising in the BULLETINS or elsewhere do not constitute an introduction. The same rules apply to foreign varieties except that confirmation of uncertain dates will be accepted from the Royal Horticultural Society, the Iris Society (England) and the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France, together with a letter from the originator and introducer. (Varieties should not be listed in a catalogue or advertised unless they are for sale as confusion in introduction date may result in loss of eligibility for the Dykes Medal.)

(e) *Award of Merit for Foreign Iris*—Judges may also recommend Award of Merit for any foreign variety introduced during the past seven years. In 1941 this would mean introduction of and since 1934. (Under these rules Canadian varieties are considered as American and not foreign.)

## 20. *Scale of Points*

The following scale of points shall be used for  
*Judging Iris in Gardens*

THE FLOWER	60 POINTS
Color and Texture	30
Color	25
Texture	5

Form and Fragrance .....	15
Form .....	12
Fragrance .....	3
Substance .....	15
 THE STALK .....	25 POINTS
Branch balance .....	9
Strength .....	8
Number of buds .....	8
 THE PLANT .....	15 POINTS
Foliage .....	5
Vigor and Hardiness .....	5
Floriferousness .....	5
 Total .....	100

The following scale of points shall be used for

*Judging Seedlings at Exhibitions*

THE FLOWER .....	50 POINTS
Color .....	15
Form .....	10
Substance and Texture .....	10
Size according to Variety .....	10
Fragrance .....	5
 THE STALK .....	25 POINTS
Poise and Grace according to section .....	10
Number of Blooms and Buds according to section .....	5
Height according to section .....	5
Branching according to section .....	5
 QUALITY, CONDITION .....	25 POINTS
Quality .....	15
Condition .....	10
 Total .....	100

## IRIS ELIGIBLE FOR AWARD OF MERIT

The following varieties have received Honorable Mention Awards and are eligible for the Award of Merit under rules covered by Paragraph 19c.

ALLUMEUSE	JEAN LAFITTE	RED GLEAM
ANITRA	KEEPSAKE	RED VALOR
ATTYE EUGENIA	LILY PONS	ROOKWOOD
AUTUMN ELF	LUCREZIA BORI	ROYAL COACH
AZTEC COPPER	MANCHU PRINCE	RUTH POLLOCK
BALMUNG	MARCO POLO	SELERNO
BLUE JUNE	MARTHA LE GRANDE	SHAWANO
BLUE SPIRE	MARY E. NICHOLLS	SIR LAUNCELOT
BRONZINO	MARY LEE DONAHUE	SNOW BELLE
CAFE AU LAIT	MATULA	SNOW FLURRY
CASQUE D'OR	MAYA	SNOW MAIDEN
CATHEDRAL DOME	MAY DAY	SONG OF GOLD
CHAMPAGNE GLOW	MAYLING SOONG	SONNY BOY
CLARIBEL	MICHELANGELO	SOUND MONEY
COPPER CRYSTAL	MIDWEST GEM	SPRING PROM
COPPER PIECE	MING YELLOW	STAINED GLASS
CORONET	MISS CALIFORNIA	STELLA POLARIS
COSETTE	MONADNOCK	SUMMER TAN
CRYSTAL BEAUTY	MONOMOY	SUNDUST
DESERET	MOONGLO	SUNTAN
DUBROVNIK	MOROCCO ROSE	SWEET ALIBI
DYMIA	MOUNTAIN SNOW	TAMPA
EILAH	MRS. SILAS WATERS	THE BISHOP
ELLA WINCHESTER	NADA	THE GUARDSMAN
ELSA SASS	OJIBWAY	THELMA JEAN
FAR WEST	OLD PARCHMENT	TIFFANY
FIESTA	ORLOFF	TREASURE ISLAND
GALLANT LEADER	OYEZ	TRIPTYCH
GARDEN MAGIC	PATRICIA	WASATCH
GLEN ELLEN	PRAIRIE SUNSET	WAVERLY
GOLDEN BEAR	RADIANT	WEST POINT
GOOD CHEER	RED BONNET	WHITE GODDESS
JANET BUTLER	RED COMET	YELLOW JEWEL

*NOTE: If any varieties have been omitted from this list that have received H.M.'s and were in commerce in 1935 to 1939 inclusive, they are eligible for an Award of Merit.*

## IRIS ELIGIBLE FOR DYKES MEDAL

■ THE FOLLOWING varieties introduced in 1937 have received Honorable Mention Awards and are eligible for the Dykes Award under rules covered by Paragraph 19d.

ANGELUS	MANCHU PRINCE	NADA
BRONZINO	MIDWEST GEM	ORLOFF
CASQUE D'OR	MISS CALIFORNIA	ORMOHR
CHOSEN	MONADNOCK	SELERNO
CITY OF LINCOLN	MOROCCO ROSE	SONG OF GOLD
E. B. WILLIAMSON	MOUNTAIN SNOW	THE BISHOP
FRANK ADAMS	MOUNT WASHINGTON	THE RED DOUGLAS
JELLOWAY	MRS. SILAS WATERS	TREASURE ISLAND

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## COMMENTS ON AWARDS AND RATINGS

JESSE WILLS

■ SINCE THERE ARE a number of changes in the Policy of Awards for 1941 it seems proper that some explanation should be made of them. I might say first of all that the awards committee has no power to make or alter rules. Its sole duty is to carry out the rules established by the board of directors. The board voted these changes only after long and careful deliberation and after a study of a large number of suggestions from many sources.

While the directors are responsible for the Policy of Awards, I, alone, am responsible for the following comments. They represent an attempt to explain the reasons for the changes as I understand them, plus some personal comments on the ratings and the rating system. With regard to these last I hope those judges who have been long in the Society will be forbearing and consider that they are addressed mainly to new judges, from a comparatively new judge.

### *Changes in Awards*

The most considerable change made concerns the Highly Commended. This was supposed to be an award for promising seedlings, but it was also purely an exhibition award. Consequently, only

those breeders who happened to be located near cities where iris shows were held regularly had a chance to receive it. A check-up of awards for the last few years will show that the number both of exhibitions and breeders has been very limited. It was felt also that sometimes a breeder would want to exhibit in a show but would hesitate for one reason or another to cut what he considered his best seedlings, and as a result the next best, instead of the best, would be Highly Commended. The rules here have been changed so that the award can be voted to iris seen either in an exhibition or in a garden, and the number of votes required has been raised to five. It should be noted particularly that Section 19a of the Policy of Awards reads: "A judge should consider his recommendation for Highly Commended as equivalent to recommending the variety as worthy of introduction."

The number of iris receiving the Honorable Mention award has been increasing year by year. The directors had no doubt that the iris which had received it were entirely worthy, but they felt that as we added to our list of judges, the number of varieties receiving five votes would be bound to grow still further, which would tend to cheapen the award. Also, while the Honorable Mention may properly be considered a regional award rather than a national one like the Award of Merit, it was not intended that it should be given by one group of judges observing the same plant in one garden. It was possible for this to happen with only five votes required. The number of votes necessary has been accordingly raised to seven, but at the same time the individual judge is allowed to vote for as many as 14 varieties instead of 12. Introduction also is now a requirement for eligibility. Members of the Society were sometimes disappointed to see awards given to iris which were not available for their gardens and which in some instances might not be introduced for several years. It was felt that iris which will be introduced during 1941 should also be eligible, but some final date seemed necessary, if only to avoid argument, and the directors believed all catalogs and price lists would be out well before June 15.

Very little change has been made regarding the Award of Merit. A provision has been added to take care of ties, and the number of votes required for an iris to be eligible has been raised from seven to ten. As a matter of fact, however, since the total number of Awards of Merit is limited, any iris which receives it will get far more than ten votes.

In connection with the Dykes Medal award, a new and somewhat longer statement of what constitutes introduction has been adopted, but this is not a change in the rules. The intent of the new definition is the same as that of the old one.

### *What to Judge*

We have tried to make the rules clearer as to what iris should be judged. The goal of judging is to get sufficient ratings of new varieties for an average worth publishing, which takes five votes, and then sufficient votes in one year for a permanent rating, which takes 20 votes. In 1941 a rating will not be considered as permanent if an iris has not been introduced, even though it receives 20 votes. It only adds to the tabulator's work to turn in ratings on iris which have already been permanently rated. To help prevent confusion a list of new iris which have received permanent ratings in the last two years is printed on the rating ballot. While a judge may rate seedlings, unless the grower specifically asks that this not be done, whenever possible these should be seedlings which have been named. It is not much help to turn in ratings on plants under number. In the first place, they are not very likely to get the five ratings necessary for publication, and in the second place a rating published under number would not convey much to other members of the Society.

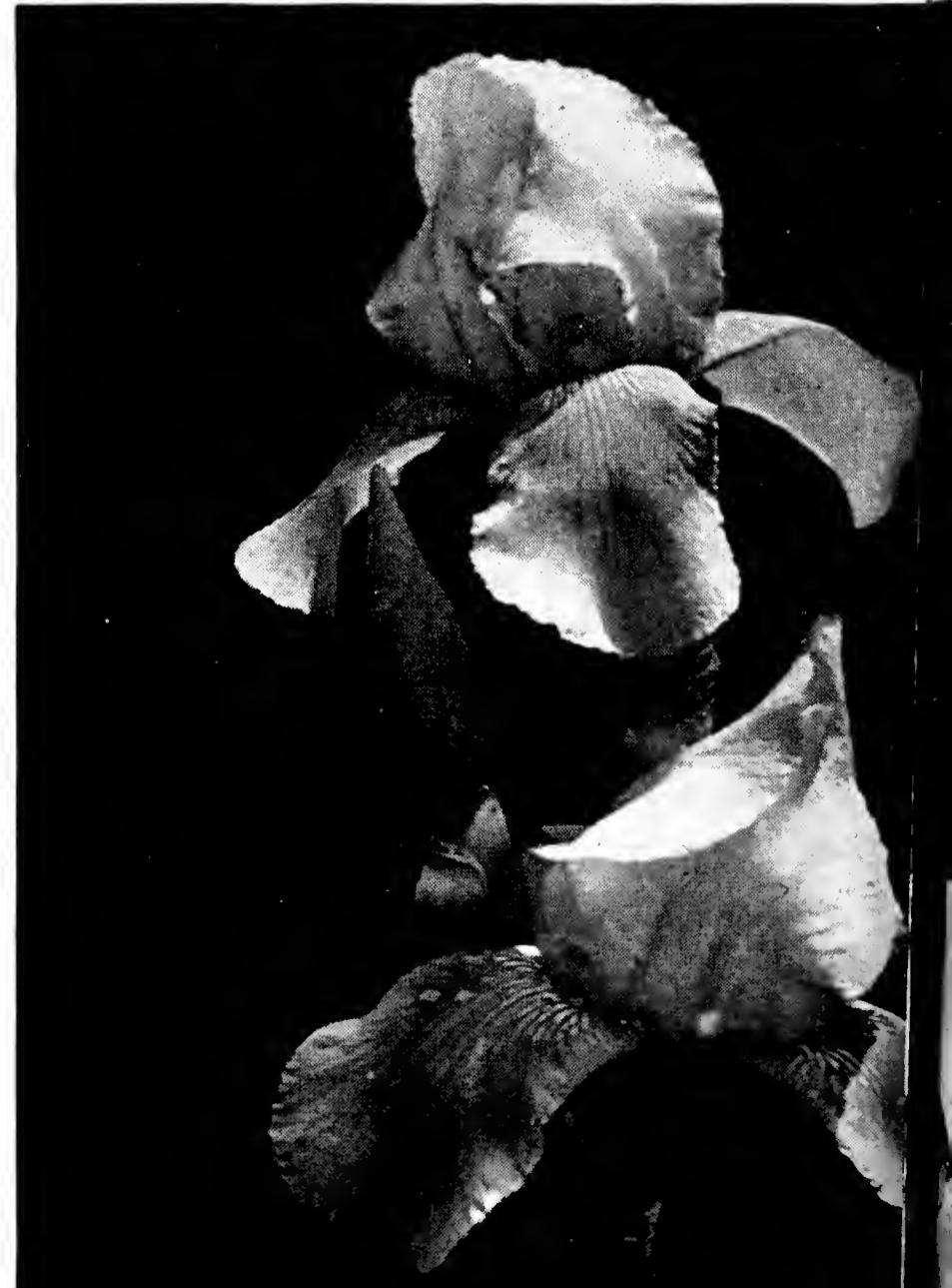
“Judges are asked not to turn in ratings on plants which plainly are poorly grown or are not fully established.” This instruction in Section 14 is very important and is one which is sometimes broken. Judges are naturally anxious to rate the newest things; that is what they are requested to do; but the newest thing is apt to be a one-year plant. The finest new variety, which really is a potential Dykes Medal winner, can sometimes look absolutely worthless as a first-year plant. This is, of course, not always true. Often first-year plants bloom splendidly. Sometimes, also, plants which have been established two years or more will do badly under adverse conditions in a particular season or in a particular garden. If you are disappointed in a variety you see for the first time, be careful before you judge it too harshly on a single plant. Investigate as to whether or not it has had time to be established and consider how other varieties in the same garden are doing. If still in doubt, don’t rate it.



## A QUARTET C

*Yellow Jewel, one of the  
brightest and clearest of  
recent introductions in this  
color.*

*Triptych, an even  
toned medium yel-  
low of bold stature  
and vigorous  
growth.*



# FINE YELLOWS

*Golden Majesty, a golden yellow which is giving a consistently good performance everywhere.*



*From Kodachromes by K. D. Smith*



*Fair Elaine, cream with bright yellow haft, an iris of fine form and distinction.*

### *Suggestions to New Judges*

New judges, particularly those located in places where they do not have much opportunity to work with more experienced ones, may ask how they can become good judges, and how they can learn to pass on the strong and weak points of an iris. They can study the rules and the Scale of Points, of course. There is also considerable material in back Iris BULLETINS which will help. An article in the April 1934 BULLETIN, No. 51, entitled "Bearded Irises, Notes on Proportion, Form, etc.," by F. Wynn Hellings, is still valuable, although the examples referred to are largely older English and French varieties with which the American judge may not be familiar.

Though the Scale of Points has been changed, there is an interesting discussion of judging under the 1934 Policy of Awards in the BULLETIN for December 1934, No. 54.

The unnumbered supplementary BULLETIN, published under date of April 1939, contains an article entitled "Points Relating to Judging of Iris," by Mr. McKee, who was then chairman of the Awards Committee.

There is a long letter from Mr. Geddes Douglas in the April 1940 BULLETIN, No. 77, headed "Shall We Change the Rating System?" which contains many helpful points, and there are probably other articles which I have overlooked in this brief list.

It has never been possible for the Society to set up any varieties as standards of excellence as to form, substance, branching, etc., for the reason that no variety does equally well in all sections of the country. New judges, however, should be able to pick out some varieties which have been highly rated and which grow well in their particular vicinity, and study these as examples of various desirable qualities.

### *Comments on the Rating System*

Of late there have been quite a number of criticisms of the rating system. I am not attempting to defend the system as such. I personally consider it valuable, but I also like symposiums and varietal notes, and think that any iris lover buying varieties he has not personally seen would want to use all three means of checking his selections. Some of the criticisms of the rating system, however, seem exaggerated. For instance, it has been said that if the majority of

judges really used the scale of points there would be more ratings in the 70's or lower and not so many ranging between 80 and 90. Perhaps so, but would there not be about as much variation between the standards of individual judges in rating the various qualities of a flower as there are in total ratings? One judge may rate an iris 94, one 90, and one 87, but they all may think equally well of it, and the 87 may be as high for the judge who gives it as the 94 is for the judge who is more liberal. Each has to compare the flower being judged with some standard of perfection. There would be similar variations in using the scale of points. Three judges may have virtually the same opinions about the substance of an iris, for instance, and yet each give it a different grade according to his temperament and according to how high his standard of perfection is. In going over the ballots turned in, it is easy to note the differences in standards between individual judges, from those who think 85 is a low rating to those who consider it a high one. It is just as well that the variations are not wider because the effects on the average of an iris would be disastrous and misleading if one judge should mean by 76 what others meant by 86.

Some years ago the Society tried the experiment of translating the numerical ratings into symbol letters. Iris rated 90 or over were graded A, those rated 85 through 89 were graded B, those rated 80 through 84 were graded C, and those few whose average ratings were less than 80 were graded D. The experiment was not popular and was dropped, but don't we all follow a grouping somewhat like this as we look over the published ratings, making allowances, of course, for the number of judges voting and the high and low votes?

The criticism has also been made that a high rating may come entirely from one region, and therefore be of little value so far as performance in other regions is concerned. Allowance has to be made for this possibility when only five or six judges participate in a rating. For this very reason the rules require 20 votes for a permanent rating, and this year introduction has also been made a requirement so that there will not be much chance of the first published rating on an iris being permanent. The tabulator, Mr. Douglas, has made an interesting study of last year's ratings by regions, and found surprisingly little variation. It seems to me that any one looking over the rating ballots for last year would get two strong impressions: first, that the average judge had done his or her best to be accurate and fair and, second, while there were considerable

variations between those who rated high and those who rated low, the average in most cases worked out remarkably well.

### *The Scale of Points*

The new Scale of Points is a modification of the one suggested by Mr. Douglas in his letter in the April 1940 BULLETIN. While some changes in details were made at the suggestions of the directors, the logical organization which Mr. Douglas suggested and which should make the scale easy to remember has been retained. It will be noted that there are three grand divisions under which the judge rates the flower or blossom up to a total of 60 points, the individual stalk up to a total of 25 points, and the plant in general apart from the flower and stalk up to a total of 15 points.

THE FLOWER—*Color and Texture* get a total of 30 points. Of these 25 points are given to *color*, which covers such desirable qualities as clarity, delicacy, richness, brilliance, carrying power, and novelty. Of course, all these need not be included in one flower. A delicate color might be clear and beautiful, but could not be expected to have carrying power at the same time. Some undesirable qualities are fading of color, heavy veining, flecking or streaking, water spots, a line down the center of the falls, muddiness, and unpleasant combinations of color.

*Texture* refers to the smoothness or softness of finish of the flower petal. The surface of it may be like satin or like velvet. Texture and color are related because the texture affects the play of light on the petal and consequently the color. The golden iridescence seen on some flowers seems half-way between texture and color. Veining sometimes may be so embossed as to become a fault from the standpoint of texture as well as color.

*Form* is given 12 points, and covers two separate factors. The first is the size of the flower in proportion to the height of the stalk. A large flower may be displeasing on a short stalk just as a small flower is displeasing on a tall stalk. The second factor covers the form of the individual flower itself and the proportion of its parts to each other. Standards and falls should be in harmony. While there is one ideal shape, some blossoms possess graceful form and some lack it. Open standards are less desirable than closed or doomed ones, and floppy ones are unquestionably bad. Falls may be horizontal, flaring, or straight hanging, but they should not be too narrow in the haft, strappy, puckered or pinched, or drooping. This last fault is apparent in the long falls of some of the very large iris.

*Fragrance* is a desirable quality in an iris, so three points are given to this.

*Substance* in an iris is most important, and gets 15 points. This refers to the quality of weather resistance in a flower, its ability to retain its

good form for the longest possible time before it fades. Too many iris which otherwise are excellent lack substance so that the standards either flop in the rain, or droop quickly under the sun. The thickness of petal is usually a good indicator of substance, but sometimes an iris that seems thin stands up remarkably well. A strong midrib will often support a thin standard. Closed and domed standards also resist wind and rain better than more open ones.

**THE STALK**—*Branch balance*, which gets nine points, refers to the number and placement of the branches of the stalk. Here grace, symmetry, and proportion of parts are rewarded, or the lack of them penalized, in the stalk just as the same qualities in the individual flower were considered under form. Good branching displays the blossoms well, poor branching crowds or bunches them. The bloom should not be so heavy as to prevent the form of the individual blossom from being seen. Lack of branching or too-high branching gives an ungainly, top-heavy stalk, with a long, bare shank.

*Strength* of stalk is given eight points. A good stalk should stand erect and not twist or "snake," or flop over at the slightest provocation. The stalk, however, should not be too thick or too thin in proportion to its height and the size of the blossom.

*Number of buds* gets eight points. The number of buds carried by a stalk is important, as it is usually an index to the length of the plant's blooming period or to the number of blossoms open at one time.

**THE PLANT**—*Foliage* gets five points. This covers cleanliness and attractiveness of appearance and resistance to leaf spot.

*Vigor and Hardiness*, which get five points, also cover rate of increase and disease resistance.

*Floriferousness*, which gets five points, covers the number of stalks and regularity of bloom. Some plants make vigorous increase but nevertheless throw up few bloom stalks. Others will not bloom regularly every year.

There never can be a perfect Scale of Points on which everyone will agree, and in judging a flower any scale will seem crude and inadequate at times. The scale is a guide to help the judge, rather than a rule to be applied rigidly. Some iris possess an illusive but distinct style, charm, or personality which cannot be analyzed or assigned to any one quality of the flower, stalk, or plant, but the wise judge will recognize this and give due credit. There are a great many beautiful iris, but no absolutely perfect ones. We all know varieties which we will continue to cherish in our gardens despite some departure in them from the ideal. At the same time, there is plenty of room for improvement in the seedlings yet to be selected and named, particularly in substance and in other qualities aside from color. A judge should think of his or her duty as to *evaluate* rather than to bestow praise or blame.

## REVIEW OF INTERMEDIATE IRIS

ROBERT SCHREINER

■ IN THE 1940 issue of the *Iris Yearbook* (of England) the writer read of the passing of the late W. J. Caparne, one of the iris patriarchs and one of the few remaining links we had with Sir Michael Foster, whom all iris people remember for the great work he performed for this family of plants.

Beside Mr. Caparne's interesting contacts with the old hybridizers and botanists, he contributed to the enrichment of our gardens with a group of iris known as intermediate hybrids, so amply discussed by W. R. Dykes in his various writings. Significantly, this race of hybrids was non-existent previous to this time. Mr. Caparne, noting the fact that between the blossoming of the dwarf species and the later blooming tall bearded varieties there was a period without iris bloom, began to force some of the tall hybrids in a greenhouse so he could get the pollen to use in combination with the very early blooming dwarf kinds. From such a happy combination he succeeded in producing varieties such as QUEEN FLAVIA, a clear yellow; PRINCE VICTOR, light and dark blue-purple; IVORINE, creamy white, and ROYAL, clear blue standards and reddish purple falls. These are just examples of many kinds he created. They average about 18 inches in height and, as expected, are intermediate in character between their tall and dwarf parents, not only as to stature, but as to blooming time as well. Thus they carried on the bloom season as the last dwarfs finished blooming at tulip time and filled an invaluable spot in our gardens.

Working at practically the same time, the firm of Goos & Koene-mann, of Germany, were carrying on the same kind of combination. They blended these two types, and better known among their varieties were examples such as FRITJOF, a bluish purple bicolor; INGEBORG, creamy white; WALHALLA, rich blue bicolor. Both Caparne's and Goos & Koenemann's creations were put on the market about the same time. As expected, two people using about the same material produced results that were quite similar.

With the impetus given to this new section, other hybridizers soon added some new kinds such as BOSNIAMAC, a sulphur white, and

PERDITA, a pearl white and a great grandparent of the later tall bearded iris, W. R. DYKES.

Following this period of development, no particular hybridizer continued specializing in the intermediates. In the next few years there were several additions, mainly from W. R. Dykes, several from William Mohr, and some solitary contributions from various breeders.

It was during this period that the tall bearded iris experienced a tremendous surge due in part to influence of iris DOMINION as well as to the infusion of the Asiatic species blood of the *mesopotamica* and *trojana* line. About this time the Sass brothers pioneered in developing some of the fine intermediates we have in our gardens today. Utilizing the finest new tall bearded varieties and crossing with improvements of the better dwarf varieties and seedling lines of their own, they were soon producing such fine kinds as COSETTE, white; DOXA, olive-chartreuse; GENTIUS, rich royal purple; RED ORCHID, rich carmine self, and such fine yellows as GOLDEN BOW and GOLDEN WEST.

Contemporary with the Sass brothers' development, Col. J. C. Nicholls, of Ithaca, N. Y., brought out, among others, CRYSORO, brilliant yellow self, and SAPPHIRE NIGHT, rich indigo purple self. Also, in England, Mrs. P. B. Murrell in the last few years has developed such striking examples as russet GLOAMING, two yellows—light MOONBEAM and rich, darker SUNBEAM. We have imported and hope to flower her RED MAY which is praised over there as the first flowering red intermediate.

It is interesting to compare the early intermediates of Caparne and Goos & Koenemann vintage with the later developments. Refinements have been improvement in form and the extension of the color range mainly into the yellows and the clarets and purples, while the earlier types were tones of blue and purple along with some whites.

Our personal interest in this section of the family centered on the hope of carrying on breeding experiments to improve and widen the color range as well as to improve the form of the intermediate flowers comparable with the high standard of excellence the tall bearded kinds exhibit at the present time. A commercial dealer has asked why we waste time breeding intermediates when the average iris fancier does not buy them and shows very little interest in them. My reply is this: I believe that the intermediate section as a whole

lacks popularity mainly because most of the varieties grown have serious faults, particularly in matter of form of the flower as many are too angular or the petals pinch and curve in an unpleasant manner. Once intermediate varieties which have the splendid form and other characteristics of "high breeding" that the tall bearded possess are introduced to commerce, public approval will be forthcoming. Likewise, the newest intermediates carry well-branched stems and a very nice complement of buds to give a really splendid garden display.

As mentioned earlier, the intermediate iris arise as a result of combining the tall late flowering and early dwarf iris. Being a hybrid race, they are richly endowed with vigor. No strain of iris is more free-flowering. Their prolificness excels that of their more illustrious June-flowering parents. Likewise, because of their dwarf heredity, they combine a very high degree of hardiness.

It is perhaps unfortunate that hybridizing in this section is not carried on with greater ease. In order to have tall bearded pollen, or the reverse, plants need to be forced for this source. Then in raising the resultant plants from such a cross, we find the  $F_1$  is quite sterile, although in some cases a pod of three or more seeds rewards one's pollination. In a very rare instance an  $F_1$  will be found that will set seed, and use is made of such a valorous individual. Because of this high sterility, very little crossing is carried beyond the first generation.

Our first intermediate cross, performed in 1927, was the result of noticing a bud of the dwarf MAROCAIN blooming near the end of the tall bearded season. Thinking about the possibility of bringing the Dominion race characters into the intermediate section, I applied the pollen of SWAZI on to this pioneer volunteer of MAROCAIN. Thus two fine blue-purples were mated and visions of some velvety intermediates were conjured up with what we thought was a fair chance of success. Thirty seedlings came to bloom in intermediate season and the results were amazing. Sixty per cent resulted in yellows, 20 per cent in creamy and bluish blends, and the remainder, in blue-purples. At first we were at a loss to understand the reason for such a color ratio. Over the next five years we combined MAROCAIN with practically every main color of the bearded iris. And the surprising feature was that, regardless of what color tall bearded parentage was used, the resultants of each cross gave about the same ratio of yellows and dirty whites, and only about 20 per

cent in which the tall bearded pollen had anything to say about the color of the resultants. All the crosses were true hybrids as the yellows and blended whites oftentimes carried the form of the tall bearded parent. After raising close to 8,000 intermediate seedlings and carefully recording the manner in which color segregation occurred, we feel that in respect to color the dwarf iris in the  $F_1$  seem to dominate over their tall cousins. As our breeding has continued, we have become more than ever convinced that the dwarf iris contribute several dominant colors to both the intermediate and tall bearded iris.

Of the intermediate iris we have introduced perhaps their parentages would be of interest. One will note the wide diversity of parentage, and in studying both parents it can readily be seen where the fine form and color have arisen. We will never allow a poorly formed intermediate into commerce. Our first introduction, **ANDALUSIAN BLUE** (1937) came from a cross of **SENSATION**  $\times$  **PETIT DANIEL**. It is, to our knowledge, the only sky blue intermediate. In 1940 we offered **ALASKA** (**EBURNEA**  $\times$  **EASTER MORN**), perfect pure flaring white intermediate; it does not pull or tuck its falls as does every other white intermediate. This season we are releasing two developments selected out of 100 selected seedlings on test. There is a clarity and vibrancy in the intermediates in which they surpass their more famous tall bearded brethren. Our two releases this year are our selection of the finest types embracing the velvety plush-like quality and the brilliant colors of the Dominion race. They are **RUBY GLOW** (**GRACE STURTEVANT**  $\times$  **EBURNEA**) richest pure glossy ruby or garnet-toned self with a vibrant orange beard, and **BLACK HAWK** (**BLACK WINGS**  $\times$  **LUTIN**) pure rich glossy crow-black with dull beard, very staunch, upright flower which is a worthy rival of such blacks as **SABLE** and **ETHIOP QUEEN**.

What does the future hold? I think the day is not too far distant when we should be able to duplicate the tall bearded color range in the intermediate bloom date and by so doing lengthen the glory of the iris season two full weeks.

At present in our beds we have numbered seedlings of the blend class, and we are carrying some  $F_1$  hybrids of plicatas. By selfing and inbreeding there is the possibility of bringing these recessive color patterns into our class where they are non-existent. Within the dwarfs there is a variation that is going to add much to diversification of our intermediates.

In BULLETIN No. 3 of the American Iris Society, June 1921, a letter by the late Mr. Caparne to President John Wister is published, and in it he refers to some of the colors of his hybrids—one “standards pure white, falls pure rose,” another, “standards white, falls clear satin emerald green, like the wing of the hair streak butterfly,” a third, “standards white, falls cobalt blue and purple shot.” Such developments as these attained in the past are the incentive to the future, and I cannot help but conclude by saying there is plenty of room for original thinking and crossing to make new types and colors. The intermediates deserve more attention than they receive. They have a value and worth all their own and should not be considered poor cousins to the taller June flowering kinds, a section which many people consider the limit of their iris horizon.

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## IRIS ROT NOTES

HAROLD T. BENT

■ SUPPLEMENTING MY REMARKS concerning iris rot, as reprinted in A.I.S. BULLETIN No. 77, the following additional findings may be of interest.

Iris rhizomes which were infected last year with soft rot and which were treated with copperas and mercurial compounds showed a recurrence of rot early this summer in 75 per cent of those so treated. Sun-treated rhizomes—that is, those rhizomes which were allowed to remain in the ground, but which were cut back to healthy flesh and left exposed to the sun—have to date shown no sign of re-infection. The same phenomenon was observed in another garden of one of our members who used a like treatment.

Experiments conducted to determine the effect of deep planting and the relation this has to rot were extremely interesting and enlightening. Two varieties were chosen, one which had never shown rot in any form for the past ten years, and another that was occasionally troublesome. Half of each clump was left with the rhizomes either wholly or partly exposed to the air, while the other half was buried to a depth of three inches. The first clump, after a year of this treatment, has shown no indication of rot in either the

exposed or buried portion, while the second clump developed soft rot in the buried section and none whatever in the part left exposed to the air. It has been further observed that many discarded iris rhizomes which had been placed in compost for over a year came out as sound as a dollar and were able to take root and grow, in spite of the fact that they were in the center of a four-foot compost pile teeming with active soft rot bacteria which completely consumed many hundreds of other rhizomes.

It has been observed that iris varieties that are subject to "underground" rot, are seldom, if ever, affected by "leaf rot," which works so quickly, destroying both fan and rhizome unless it is checked.

Experiments on "leaf rot" conducted on a very special seedling clump which I keep in my garden for no other reason than that it never fails to show a considerable infection every year, were somewhat varied this year. All earth was removed from around the rhizomes early in the year, before any indication of rot appeared, and the rhizomes were left more or less balanced in the air, with as little contact with the soil as possible to eliminate any chance of infection. The clump and soil were subjected to several sprayings of a strong solution of semesan, but "leaf rot" appeared early in September, right on schedule. Curiously enough, "underground" rot has never attacked this particular plant, and another peculiar thing is that the plant seems 100 per cent immune to leaf spot and aphid infestation, and is rapid and otherwise healthy. Crosses made both ways, using this plant for both a seed and pollen parent, showed a loss, due to leaf rot, of 30 per cent of the young plants in the seed bed during the first year. Seedlings of other crosses planted on both sides of these 8 inches away showed no sign of rot.

It would appear from these observations that the various forms of rot are due to an inherent weakness rather than to soil bacteria. To verify this theory an attempt was made to check back over the breeding of several generations to see what one variety common to all the crosses might possibly be responsible for this weakness.

However, I found that this could not be done due either to the failure of many of the hybridizers to record their crosses, or because they only partially recorded them. For example, CALIFORNIA GOLD is recorded as cross of GRACE STURTEVANT  $\times$  CREAM SEEDLING, while FAR WEST has no recorded breeding. There are many hundreds of other registrations like these two, all of which are utterly

useless from a viewpoint of scientific breeding or pathological research. Probably no other specialized plant society is more careful than the A.I.S. in recording full information concerning names and breeding, but, in spite of this, there is still too much carelessness on the part of the breeder in keeping proper records of his crosses.

The writer notes with interest comments concerning iris borer injury in relation to rot. Careful and studied observations have failed to show that iris borer injury is more than slightly contributory to iris rot. Much depends on how much and where the injury occurs. If the injury is close to the bottom of the rhizome, and the feeding roots are all but severed, rot may start, but if it is through the center or at the sides of the rhizome, the chances are the injury will heal over, except in those varieties which are inherently subject to the disease. Even in these it is doubtful that the borer can be blamed for any rot that might occur, for the plant probably would have it anyway. Theoretically, it might be argued that the borer injury is a source for the entry of bacteria into the rhizome and would be a danger spot for infection, such as a cut on the human body. Assuming that this is correct, it must also be remembered that compared to the tremendous number of breaks in the skin to which a human body is subjected in the normal course of events, the infections are very slight, and that whether or not infection takes place depends a great deal on the physical health of the individual. The same holds true with a plant, and the writer believes that borer injury would be merely another source of infection, and that infection could, and probably would, take place through other breaks in the plant tissue, such as mechanical injuries to the rhizome and leaf and root injury. It would seem reasonable to say that the health of the plant is the determining factor of whether or not it would be subject to rot, and that borer injury might contribute only so far as it might weaken the plant's health and consequently its resistance to disease.

To still further refute the over-emphasis given to borer injury as a cause of rot, this summer the writer had occasion to visit an amateur's iris garden which had a bad infestation of borers. Of the 50-odd clumps examined, all had one or more borers, and many had been injured the previous year, but there was no sign of soft rot in any case. Many of the rhizomes were completely hollowed out, and some were only partially injured. If rot starts through bacterial action on injured or cut rhizomes, it certainly did not in this case.

nor have I any evidence to show that it ever does. Of the thousands of reset iris rhizomes observed, never have I seen root rot starting on the cut end, and such rot as I have seen has always started on the crown section. This fact alone leads me to believe that *infection does not take place in a healthy, well-hardened-off plant of a constitutionally strong variety.* Any partial stoppage of active growth, whether it be caused by lack of fertility of the soil, lack of moisture, or transplanting, will have a hardening-off effect on the rhizome, and the possibility of root rot is slight where such stoppage occurs. Newly set iris are temporarily checked in growth by moving, and this check, even though slight, is sufficient to harden the rhizomes so that they will resist infection, and it can well be assumed that this is the reason why rot is seldom seen in first-year set-ins.

Let us forget theory and get down to facts.

## SAN GABRIEL GROWS TALL IN TEXAS

■ FIRST REPORTS of the 1941 iris season tell of heights scaled by the variety SAN GABRIEL for Mr. George M. Allen, San Antonio, Tex. Two vigorous stalks of this iris grew 63 and 65 inches tall, which exceeds even the usual California dimensions of this robust variety.

The clump was viewed by three iris judges from Iowa : Mrs. E. C. Currier, Miss Hansen Currier, and Mrs. W. G. Dumont.

## IRIS THrips AND METHODS FOR CONTROL

L. GORDON UTTER AND FLOYD F. SMITH

■ DURING RECENT YEARS a new insect pest of iris, the iris thrips (*Bregmatothrips iridis* Watson), has appeared which, unless recognized and restrained, may prove serious for the iris grower. It was first discovered in this country on established plantings of Japanese iris at Hamburg, N. Y., in 1931. Since then it has been found in several iris plantings in New York City and vicinity and in one or more places in nine eastern States, two Pacific Coast States, and possibly Canada. This pest is believed to be present in many other states and localities because of the distribution of iris stock from commercial and private plantings known to be infested. Just how prevalent the iris thrips has become is a question which can be answered only when the grower has learned to associate the pest with its characteristic injury on iris.

The iris thrips attacks only iris and is particularly injurious on both foliage and flowers of the wild forms and garden varieties of Japanese iris (*Iris Kaempferi*). Here the characteristic symptom is a russetting of the foliage (Fig. 1), resulting from feeding by the thrips upon the inner surface of leaf sheaths and young leaves from May until November. This injury has ranged from slight to severe on the numerous garden varieties, and various degrees of stunting may occur on plants where such conditions are of long duration. Slight to severe flower injury also results from feeding by the thrips within the sheaths of the stem leaves on the stem and within the bracts enclosing the bud during the elongation of the flower spike. Fully developed buds may show russetting (Fig. 2) on both the inner and outer surfaces of the bracts. In some cases, the floral parts enclosed by these bracts may exhibit feeding injury, whereas others may be comparatively free. The result of severe injury to the floral parts may be seen at blooming time when the flowers fail to expand fully. Usually the petals adhere to one another, and the entire flower appears bloated (Fig. 3). Less severe injury may not alter flower expansion, but the petals are marred with silvery fleckings. Varieties blooming early seldom exhibit much injury, while those flowering later are more likely to be severely damaged, although adjacent plants of a given variety may show considerable



*Figure 1—Fan of Japanese iris showing russeting of leaves following injury by the iris thrips, compared with an uninjured fan.*

variation in the degree of injury. The indications of injury are directly correlated with the thrips infestation. Resistant iris types may harbor the thrips and serve as sources of infestation when planted among more susceptible ones. This may result in the development of a uniform infestation throughout an iris planting, to the dismay of the grower.

Severe injury, which may result in moderate stunting, is also found on the Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus* L.). Such injury appears as a sootlike blackening on the foliage, while the flowers and floral parts remain uninjured. This iris, and those in the following groups, normally bloom before the thrips have increased to such numbers that they damage the buds or flowers.

Russetting of the foliage, accompanied by slight to severe stunting, is also found on *Iris setosa* Pallas, the Blue Flags (*I. versicolor* L. and *I. virginica* L.), the Japanese Water Iris (*I. laevigata* Fisch.), and hybrids of *I. versicolor-laevigata* and *I. virginica-laevigata*. Although the Vesper Iris (*I. dichotoma* Pallas) blooms late, the injury observed has been confined entirely to the foliage.

Sooty-black foliage injury results when the Roof Iris (*Iris tectorum* Max.), the Southern Iris (such as *I. fulva* Ker-Gawler, *I. foliosa* Mack. and Bush, and *I. fulva-foliosa* hybrids), and the Spurian Iris (*I. aurea* Lindley and *I. ochroleuca* L.) are attacked by the thrips. The degree of injury is slight to moderate with no stunting. Tall bearded and dwarf bearded iris show similar symptoms, but only when thrips infestations are heavy. In most instances, however, these iris have been practically free from thrips, even when grown near heavily infested Japanese iris. The thrips are not generally of serious importance to the bearded iris, except that they may overwinter on them or temporarily infest them and then spread to susceptible types.

So far no signs of thrips injury have been seen on the Siberian group of iris (*Iris orientalis* Thun., *I. sibirica* L., and *I. orientalis-sibirica* hybrids) and such forms as the Wilson Iris (*I. Wilsonii* Wright), the Spurian Iris (*I. halophila* Pallas and *I. graminea* L.), and *I. biglumis* Vahl. In 1934 a few plants of the Siberian iris were found to be slightly or moderately injured by the thrips, but this condition has not reappeared since then. While these iris types are evidently resistant to injury, it must not be concluded that they do not harbor the thrips at various times. The iris thrips has also been noted on bulbs of the Spanish Iris (*I. xiphium* L.), but obser-



Figure 2—Bud of Japanese iris showing russetting of the bracts and stem leaf resulting from iris thrips injury, compared with normal bud.

vations as to foliage injury and flower injury are lacking.

Now that we are familiar with the type of injury produced, the next step is to make sure that it is caused by the iris thrips and not other agents. The adult iris thrips (Fig. 4) is glistening dark brown to almost black and about 1/20th of an inch long. Overwintering is accomplished by the adult females moving downward into the crown of the iris plant in the fall and, finally, within the young leaf buds. They are sluggish and inactive below 50° F. and consequently do not emerge to feed in the spring until the temperatures are favorable for growth of the iris.

Eggs are laid in the plant tissue beginning late in April in the vicinity of New York. However, it is usually late in May before the adult offspring of the first generation appear among the milky-white larvae and pupae. The larvae resemble the adults in many characteristics, but are smaller and more variable in size, depending on their growth development. These larvae pass into the pupal stage, from which they soon emerge as fully developed adults. Consequently the pupae appear like the adults except for their milky-white color and inactivity. These immature forms are found within the leaf sheaths, where the voracious feeding of the larvae produces considerable injury.

Although the greater number of adults are wingless, there are some which do have wings. Such forms have been seen from May until October and are most numerous during June.

Adults, larvae, and pupae may be found together within a leaf sheath during the breeding period, which terminates in October. Generally the population peak is reached during June, and the cumulative effect of the feeding by numerous adults and larvae at that time makes their injury on the iris most conspicuous. In fact, over a hundred larvae and adults have been counted within the leaf sheaths of a single shoot of Japanese iris and 250 on a shoot of the Yellow Flag. If that is not enough, you can estimate the number which might be present on an entire plant. Hot, dry weather and an insect predator combine to reduce the numbers of thrips later in the season but not to eliminate them.

The adults and immature thrips are characterized by their sluggishness. Consequently the spread of wingless adults to adjacent plants takes place slowly but progressively. The winged adults also appear to be very sluggish, and even handling them has not stimulated them to take flight. However, they are believed to be



Figure 3—Left, expanding bud of Japanese iris showing normal appearance, compared with (right) bloated effect due to iris thrips injury.

responsible for the greatest spread from plant to plant during the period when they are abundant. Migration of these thrips apparently occurs in nature, but we do not know just what factors are responsible.

The iris thrips may be lacking in size but certainly not in ability to cause damage. It has mouth parts constructed for rasping the host tissues and sucking up the juices. The scarified feeding areas then become russet or sooty-black, depending on the iris type. Although feeding takes place primarily within the leaf sheaths or bud bracts, it may also occur on the surface. In the early part of the day both adults and larvae, often in large numbers, have been observed feeding on exposed surfaces of their hosts. At other times most of them are secluded in leaf sheaths or flower parts, and one must look carefully to find them.

The iris thrips is of first importance and should not be confused with other species of thrips, such as the gladiolus thrips (*Taeniothrips simplex* Mor.), the tobacco thrips (*Frankliniella fusca* Hinds), and the flower thrips (*Frankliniella tritici* Fitch), which also may be found on iris.

Considerable flower damage to iris may be caused by the gladiolus thrips, and it is often difficult to determine whether this species or the iris thrips is the offender. Since both thrips are similar with respect to life histories, forms of injury, and seasonal activity, it seems advisable to point out their main identifying characteristics: (1) The adult gladiolus thrips is approximately 1/16th of an inch long and is black except for the cream-colored bases of the wings. This gives the appearance of a light band directly behind the head of the insect. The iris thrips does not have this band. (2) Larvae and pupae of the gladiolus thrips are lemon yellow to orange, while the comparable stages of the iris thrips are milky white. (3) The gladiolus thrips is much more active than the iris thrips and is capable of flying considerable distances. (4) The gladiolus thrips has several hosts, whereas the iris thrips occurs solely on iris. (5) The russetting or blackening of foliage caused by the iris thrips is more pronounced than that caused by the gladiolus thrips.

The tobacco thrips is occasionally found in leaf sheaths of Japanese iris. The active dark brown adults and lemon-yellow larvae resemble the gladiolus thrips but are considerably smaller. The injury by the tobacco thrips consists of russetting of the foliage and

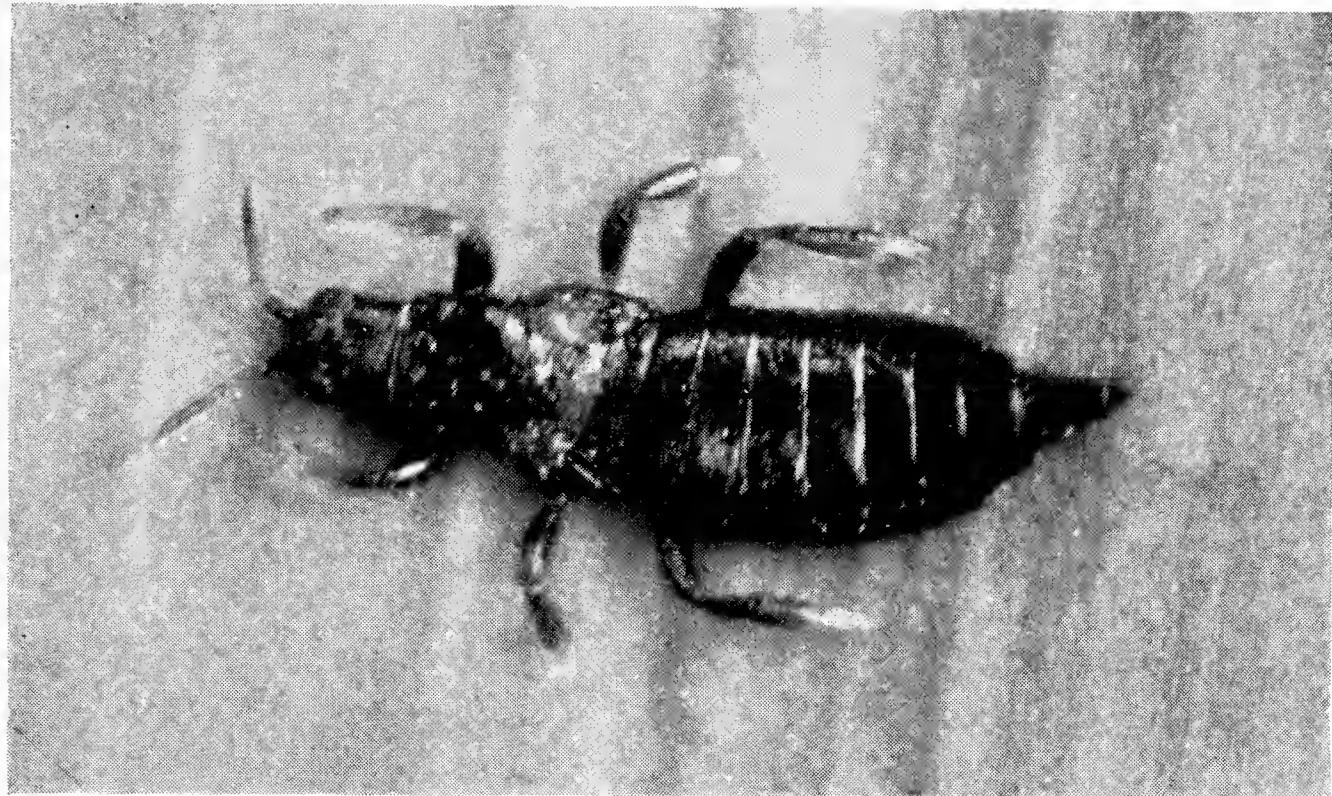


Figure 4—Adult iris thrips

inner surfaces of leaf sheaths, but it is less extensive and less serious than that caused by the iris thrips.

The flower thrips also becomes very abundant on iris flowers, but particularly on certain purple varieties of the tall bearded and Japanese types. Hundreds of the very active, dull yellow adults may occur on petals of a single flower. Its injury appears to be less serious than that caused by the iris thrips or the gladiolus thrips, and consists of very fine silvered spots where it has removed the coloring matter from cells while feeding. It has not been observed to injure the foliage.

By now there should be no doubts left that the iris thrips is capable of causing considerable damage to either small or large plantings of iris. When severe infestations continue over long periods, the plants may become weakened or stunted, in addition to the unsightly appearance of the foliage and flower injury among the Japanese iris. Certain cultural practices, including burning off the old foliage with a quick fire early in the spring and flooding depressed beds containing Japanese iris with water, have not controlled the thrips. What are we going to do about this pest? Have we any control measures to prevent the iris thrips from affecting our plants? We do have adequate control measures which have been developed from tests conducted at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden since 1933

and later at Beltsville, Md., and Farmingdale, N. Y., with hot-water treatments, fumigants, sprays, and dusts. Results from the tests are most encouraging, and we feel that the problem of control can now be handed over to the grower.

The hot-water treatment kills all stages of the iris thrips and is especially adapted to the needs of the commercial grower who wishes to avoid transporting insects with his plants. It may also be used by the gardener who is transplanting all his iris at one time and wishes to eradicate the thrips in the same operation. The treatment is made by immersing planting-size divisions of iris in water for 35 minutes at the proper temperature, 110° F. This kills the thrips within the leaf sheaths without injuring the plant. For a small number of divisions, the needed equipment is simple, but for larger quantities a special treating tank equipped with thermostatic control, agitator, and heating element would be desirable. Such a tank for treating small lots of material is illustrated in U. S. Department of Agriculture Circular 301, page 10. This tank could be constructed on a scale proportionate to the quantities of material to be treated.

Satisfactory treatments may be made, however, if a covered tank or vat, such as an old bathtub, is available, together with an accurate thermometer for checking the temperature. The water may be heated prior to filling the tank, or afterwards by means of a steam jet, if available. The water should be 112° F. before the plants are immersed, and as the temperature falls it should be brought up to 110° F. by adding more hot water or steam during the progress of the treatment. If the temperature falls below 110° F. owing to the cooling effect of the iris plants, then the beginning of the 35-minute treating period should not be reckoned until the water temperature has been brought up to the desired point. The chilling of the water will be more pronounced when cold clumps of iris are treated early in the spring, and under such conditions fewer divisions should be treated at one time. Never place too many divisions in the tank for a single treatment; otherwise, circulation of the water is prevented. Furthermore, all iris divisions should be kept completely below the water surface during the treatment. To maintain a uniform temperature in all parts of the tank, the water should be kept in constant circulation, either with a motor-driven pump or propeller or by stirring with a wooden paddle. Trays may be devised to facilitate the handling of plants in the tank.

Plants are prepared for treatment by digging the clumps, shaking them free from soil, dividing them to replanting size, and cutting back the foliage to within a few inches of the rhizome. They are then tied in muslin bags, burlap squares, or similar porous material, and immersed in a tank or container suitable for maintaining the recommended temperature, as discussed above. The preheating period is determined by the length of time necessary for the water to become stabilized at 110° F. after the plants have been immersed. The treatment should then run for the stated time, after which the plants are removed, drained of excess water, and planted. To eliminate reinestation of plants after treatment, they should be handled in such a way as to prevent living thrips from crawling to them from cut-off foliage or untreated plants. They should also be planted in isolated beds free from infested iris, otherwise successful eradication will not be accomplished and your labors will have been for naught.

What about your plants after such harsh treatment? In most instances we have observed that the recovery of plants given the hot-water treatment is no different from that of transplanted untreated ones, provided the treating was done at the proper season. Bearded and Southern iris are unaffected when treated in August, September, or October, but are severely injured by spring treatment. Japanese iris may be treated in either spring or fall, but their successful re-establishment is dependent on an adequate supply of water after planting. In general, the various iris types should be treated at the season of year during which they are normally divided and transplanted. A more detailed discussion of the hot-water method and results may be found in U. S. Department of Agriculture Circular 445.

There are effective methods for spraying and dusting which can be used on established plantings of iris. Since 1933 we have tested many insecticide combinations. Two sprays were found, however, which caused no injury to the plants and killed 99 to 100 per cent of the thrips after several applications. The formulas of these spray mixtures are as follows:

1. Derris powder (4% rotenone)—2.5 ounces or 1 cupful.  
Sulfonated castor oil (1-400)—1 fluid ounce or 2 tablespoonfuls.  
Water—3 gallons.

(Turkey red oil is the common trade name for sulfonated castor oil. Sodium oleyl sulfate spreader-sticker (1-1,000),\* 0.4 ounce or 2½ teaspoonfuls, may be used in place of the sulfonated castor oil.)

Add the sulfonated castor oil to part of the water, wet the dry derris powder with small quantities of this mixture and make it into a smooth paste, then dilute to the volume needed.

2. Nicotine sulfate (40%) (1-400)—1 fluid ounce or 2 tablespoonfuls.

Mild soap flakes—1.9 ounces or 10 tablespoonfuls.

Water—3 gallons.

(Sodium oleyl sulfate spreader-sticker (1-1000)\*, 0.4 ounce or 2½ teaspoonfuls, may be used in place of the soap flakes.)

Dissolve the soap flakes in the water and add the nicotine sulfate.

Both spray mixtures were found highly effective over a period of several years, so the availability of materials will govern the choice of the one used. The sprays should be applied as a fine mist to wet all surfaces of the foliage and the bases of the fans. Suitable applications can be made either with a knapsack sprayer or with a power sprayer operated at high pressure for large plantings. To prevent foliage injury from the feeding of the thrips, the first spraying should be made shortly after growth starts in the spring and should be repeated at intervals of one or two weeks until flowering time of the Japanese iris in June. Four applications at two-week intervals are almost equal in effectiveness to eight weekly applications of the same materials during the preflowering period. These treatments can be expected to control the thrips sufficiently to prevent their injury to the foliage and flowers. However, a few thrips may be expected to escape, and they may cause considerable injury during the remaining part of the summer as they increase in numbers. These survivors and their progeny may be held in check by continuing with three or four spray treatments at two-week intervals during July and August.

During the past two years 99 per cent control of the thrips has

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\*A commercial spreader-sticker containing sodium oleyl sulfate with a synthetic resinous base, obtainable at most seed stores.

also been obtained with a commercial extract of derris root containing one per cent of rotenone and 19 per cent of total extractives with a stabilizer and spreader. Eight weekly applications have been found to be most effective. This material is now available on the market and is particularly easy to handle, since one has only to add one ounce to three gallons of water and then start spraying.

Some growers prefer dusts to sprays. In response to such a demand, we tested derris, pyrethrum, and nicotine dusts during the past season. The derris dust was the only one giving satisfactory results with eight weekly applications. The percentage of thrips killed, however, was not quite so high as that obtained with the sprays. A commercial product of derris dust containing one per cent rotenone is available on the market for those who may be interested in using it.

The iris thrips can be controlled by sprays without an expensive outlay of either materials or labor. However, the effectiveness of a control program depends on the proper number of applications and thorough coverage on the iris plants. Eight weekly or four biweekly applications of the derris or nicotine combinations, and eight of the derris extract, during the preflowering period of the Japanese iris, can be safely recommended, provided they are carried out according to a regular schedule.

Don't think that an insecticide which effectively controls one insect is equally effective against all others. This is particularly true when dealing with thrips. For example, the tartar emetic and brown sugar spray used successfully against the gladiolus thrips and the flower thrips is relatively ineffective against the iris thrips. Conversely, the nicotine and derris sprays found to be most effective against the iris thrips killed comparatively few of the other two species and therefore are generally not recommended for use against them. Control of the iris thrips, then, depends upon using the sprays recommended.

Watch your iris closely in the future. When suspicious injury appears on the foliage, check for the presence of the iris thrips. If this pest is responsible, then select the treatment best suited to your facilities and prosecute the attack with vigor.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Division of Truck Crop and  
Garden Insect Investigations, Beltsville, Md.



*From Kodachromes by K. D. Smith*

*In the throes of making color pictures: Top—W. M. Kellogg assists F. W. Cassebeer in taking a "shot" of a single blossom with a telephoto lens. Bottom—Mrs. K. D. Smith holds a background for President William McKee.*

## TAKING COLOR PICTURES OF IRIS

F. W. CASSEBEER

■ WITH THE ADVENT of the Kodachrome film a few years ago the taking of color pictures of their favorite flowers has become almost a necessary adjunct to the horticultural activities of flower fanciers. So it is with our iris enthusiasts, and a great many members of the Society have taken up the fascinating hobby of recording the glories of the blooming season in color, thus providing the pleasure of seeing their latest novelties and seedlings projected on the screen some long winter evening. The chairman of the Slides Committee has suggested that there be an article in the BULLETIN outlining a few of the problems of outdoor color photography with the thought that it might be helpful to those who have just recently taken up this pastime. With this in mind I am venturing a few observations on Kodachrome photography of iris entirely from my own experiences, and it is more than likely that some of my conclusions on the subject as given below will be at variance with the opinions of others.

(1) *Equipment.* Kodachrome color photography can be successfully carried out with cameras using the 35 mm. film or those equipped with cut film magazines for sheet film sizes from  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$  to 8x10. Among the many miniature cameras using the 35 mm. roll film some of the best known are the Leica, Contax, Retina, Argus, Bantam Special, and the new Kodak Ektra. The usual cameras for the cut films are the Speed Graphic and Graflex which are available in a number of sizes. Lenses differ somewhat in their rendition of color; and, while the best possible Anastigmat lenses are to be advised, some of the comparatively inexpensive ones will give perfectly satisfactory results.

(2) *Exposure.* Whenever possible use an exposure meter, such as the Weston or G. E., to determine the correct exposure. The Kodachrome film does not have the latitude of the black and white films and it is difficult to estimate the exposure accurately without using a meter. For instance, if the correct exposure for a given subject be 1/50, f:6.3, then exposures of 1/50, f:5.6 and 1/50, f:8.0 will still give passably good pictures but any exposure above or below these limits would result in color photographs that are either much too light or much too dark. For good average exposures in the flower garden point the meter towards the lawn at a distance of about two to three feet. The reading thus obtained will suffice to give the correct exposure for most flowers regardless of the color. However, if the iris are white, yellow, or especially light in

tone a slightly less exposure should be given than that indicated by the reading on the grass. Conversely, a dark iris should be given slightly longer exposure than the grass reading.

(3) *Lighting.* The 35 mm. Daylight Kodachrome Film and the Professional Daylight Kodachrome Cut Film are both calibrated to the color value of average noonday sunlight. Consequently, the best time for color pictures outdoors is between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. when the sun is comparatively high. Pictures taken in the early morning or late afternoon will generally have a yellow or orange cast because of the predominance of yellow light in the atmosphere. In any event sidelighting of subjects is preferable to taking pictures directly with or against the sun and gives much more interesting results. Intense flat sunlight on masses of flowers seems to result in a certain amount of halation or disturbed reflection which can be eliminated by employing sidelighting. The contrasts obtained directly against the sunlight are too great for the latitude of the Kodachrome film in most instances. Do not be afraid to take color pictures in the complete absence of sunlight. Some of the very finest color values are to be found in pictures taken about noon on a bright cloudy day. Even rather dull days will give excellent rendition of pastel tinted iris and light blends. In no event should pictures be attempted in the shade under a bright blue sunny sky. Such Kodachromes are practically always too blue. It might also be mentioned here that it is difficult to render correctly the color of the blue tinted iris outdoors. Specimens of these are best taken indoors with the Type A, 35 mm. film, and the type B, Professional Cut Film with Photofloods or 3200°K. Tungsten lamps respectively.

(4) *Tripods.* Since it is difficult for the average person to hold a camera steady at speeds under 1/50 of a second, a tripod is always recommended for really careful and accurate work. Furthermore, for the sake of sharpness and depth of focus it is better to take a subject at 1/10, f:12.5 than the approximate equivalent combination of 1/50, f:6.3.

(5) *Backgrounds.* This is one of the most important considerations in making color pictures and too often we find the backgrounds of slides consist of a confused mass of iris foliage and out-of-focus blossoms that detract very greatly from the beauty of the subject in the foreground. Green shrubbery is often a very acceptable foil for an iris clump and in many cases the mere sunlit green of the lawn provides a suitable background for a stalk or individual blossom. Contrary to general usage, black velvet is not the best possible background against which to photograph iris in color. In projecting such slides on the screen one will note that the black velvet will not appear perfectly black but will be several tones lighter than the black border of the mask of the slide—a result which is not altogether pleasing. Instead of black velvet use a suitably colored background for the best effect when projected. Most iris blossoms will show up well against a grayish blue, olive green, or heliotrope tinted background. For this purpose building board or heavy cardboard painted with flat wall paint is very satisfactory.

## OUR MEMBERS WRITE

### *Personal Opinion Better Than Ratings?*

■ THE ARTICLE on the judging of iris in BULLETIN No. 80 is a demand for a stricter iris numerology, shall I say, as a way out of the criticisms of the present procedure. The writer seems to think that a difference of 13 points in ratings shows incompetence.

If the judgments could all be done by one meticulous, competent man who could forget that he had ever judged that iris before, I wonder whether his ratings would be any closer.

Will any iris rate the same under sun and shade? When fresh out, or a day or two old? At dewy morn or high noon? Early in the season when the judge is starved for iris beauty, or at the end when he is satiated?

Fundamentally, is it the rating or the opinion of most viewers that counts? The American Rose Society goes after the worth of a rose differently. It puts more emphasis on the "proof of the pudding" than on any other objective. This is a countrywide expression of personal opinion, followed by name and location.

I presume there are other members of the Rose Society in the American Iris Society. I wish you would get their reactions to the Rose Society procedure in publicity as compared with ours.

Broadly, theirs is a personal backing, ours a Society backing, which to my thinking is bad for the Society.

—C. G. WHITE.

*Redlands, Cal.*

### *Tenderness vs Hardiness*

■ THE DIAGRAM, BULLETIN 79, p. 53, to which Earl E. Evans refers in BULLETIN 80, p. 45, had only one point to make, and it attempted to make it in the simplest way possible — that it is possible to have hardy, winter- and rot-resistant offspring despite the fact that somewhere in the remote ancestry there was a tender or rot-susceptible grandparent. The sole motive for publishing this chart lay in an earlier pronouncement advising everybody to avoid anything that had *mesopotamica* anywhere in its ancestral picture, setting up such ancestry as in itself a sure criterion of tenderness.

Whether tenderness is dominant over hardness, as Mr. Evans maintains, I have no experimental data either to confirm or disprove. I have never used *mesopotamica* in any of my breeding, but we do find reputed descendants of this variety that are perfectly hardy in our Eastern gardens. Nor am I able to say whether tenderness depends upon a single gene or a host of them, but that in no way vitiates the point made in BULLETIN 79.

I am surprised, however, that anyone with as much technical familiarity with genetics as Mr. Evans displays should make his references to "12 crossed with 12" or "eight inherited out of thin air" to *prove his point*. He should have realized that the number might as well, except for space requirements, have been six or a thousand, and that the disconnected items in the third file merely suggest the indefiniteness of the whole thing and that however many there are, the principles remain the same. Since the last file represents the F<sub>2</sub> generation he has only to substitute a "t" for the R there used in order to understand it in his own terms, and he will then see that the results are the same, that offspring may be quite hardy despite a tender grandparent, the only point sought to be made.

—J. MARION SHULL.

*Chery Chase, Md.*

## THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Membership is by the CALENDAR year. Annual Membership is three dollars; Triennial Membership is eight dollars and fifty cents; Life Membership is fifty dollars.

Make your check or money order payable to the American Iris Society and send to Mr. Howard Watkins, Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Please follow the instruction. It will help us all in the record keeping.

## COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY

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**BULLETIN**  
**OF THE**  
**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**

JULY, 1941

No. 82

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## THE EDITOR'S BULLETIN BOARD

■ THIS MID-SUMMER BULLETIN as usual contains the announcement of the American Iris Society awards and numerous reviews of the current season. It is generally of considerable interest to members of the society and we trust that the readers will find this number no exception to the rule. We feel that the articles have an unusual quality of genuineness due to the fact that the memories of the iris season were still fresh in the minds of the authors. The country was not covered as completely as we could wish, and for some of the regions the stories were either received too late for publication or not at all.

The highly successful annual meeting at Nashville has been described in detail by Mrs. Nesmith and Mrs. Whiting; and is also covered in the notes of Mrs. Clutton. Mr. Fishburn contributes another excellent article on good iris as he saw them, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Maxwell tell of the Pacific coast season, and Mrs. Peckham devotes most of her story to iris observed in New England. Mrs. Steedman writes her comments of varieties blooming in Mr. Fishburn's garden in Roanoke which she visited every day for a period of three weeks, and also includes those blooming in her own and another Roanoke garden.

The Editor has noticed that there is usually a dearth of material for the next or fall number of the BULLETIN and would therefore welcome any unsolicited articles on iris topics which members feel would be of interest to their fellow readers.

F. W. CASSEBEER, *Editor.*



*Kodachrome by F. W. Cassebeer*

*Our President and Treasurer inspect superb blooms of the lovely  
Melitta at Mr. Fishburn's garden in Roanoke*

# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY AWARDS, 1941

## DYKES MEDAL

### *VARIETY*

### *ORIGINATOR*

*Dykes Medal*

THE RED DOUGLAS

J. Sass

*Runner-up*

CITY OF LINCOLN

H. P. Sass

## AWARD OF MERIT

### American Varieties—Tall Bearded

### *VARIETY*

### *ORIGINATOR*

PRAIRIE SUNSET

H. P. Sass

ELSA SASS

H. P. Sass

SNOW FLURRY

Rees

OLD PARCHMENT

Kleinsorge

YELLOW JEWEL

Smith

RUTH POLLOCK

H. P. Sass

MING YELLOW

Glutzbeck

RED GLEAM

Lapham

### Other Than Tall Bearded

OYEZ

White

NADA

Giridlian

## Foreign Varieties

ALASTOR

Spender

ATHALA

Cayeux

## HONORABLE MENTION

### Tall Bearded

### *VARIETY*

### *ORIGINATOR*

ARCTIC

Kleinsorge

CALIFORNIA PEACH

Salbach

CHRYSOLITE

White

DAMERINE

Gage

DEEP VELVET

Salbach

FORT KNOX

Milliken

ICY BLUE

Weed

LANCASTER

Cook

MELANIE

Hill

MIRABELLE

Whiting

**VARIETY**

MISSOURI NIGHT  
 MOUNTAIN SKY  
 NOEL  
 PHOEBE  
 SAMOVAR  
 SMOLDER  
 SPRING SECRETARY  
 SALAR  
 STORM KING  
 SUNSPOT  
 TITIAN LADY  
 WAKARUSA

**ORIGINATOR**

Callis  
 Milliken  
 White  
 Douglas  
 Hall  
 Nicholls  
 White  
 DeForest  
 Nicholls  
 Grant  
 Douglas  
 Lapham

**Intermediates and Dwarfs**

None

**Siberian, Hybrids, Species**

BRONZ SPUR, Spuria	Nies
HELEN ASTOR, Siberian	Whitney-Kellogg
NELSON OF HILLY, Hybrid	White
PESHAWAR, Hybrid	Schreiner
SANGATAUK, Spuria	Nies

**Fall Blooming**

None

**HIGHLY COMMENDED****VARIETY****ORIGINATOR**

*C-27	Cassebeer
*DEEP SHADOWS (41-1014)	Cochran
41-13	Douglas
CHICORY BLUE (41-4)	Douglas
SNOWDROP	Douglas
*S-12	Fitzhugh
*FRANCONIA	Graves
AND THOU	Graves
SNOW CARNIVAL	Graves
40-46	Hall
GOLDEN EAGLE (40-05)	Hall
TAPESTRY Rose (38-18)	Hall
SPRING CHIMES	Hall
38-24	Hall

*VARIETY*

MARY VERNON  
41-1  
41-S-1  
FLORA ZENOR (40-318)  
YELLOW GLORY  
TAWNY PEARL  
41-4  
GOOD SIR  
SPRING ARIA  
APPOINTEE  
SPOTLIGHT  
48-4-41

*ORIGINATOR*

McKee  
Nesmith  
Nies  
J. Sass  
Smith  
Taylor  
Washington  
White  
White  
White  
Williams  
Wills

JESSE WILLS  
*Chairman, Awards Committee*

July 16, 1941

---

\*These iris received award at shows. All others were judged in the garden.

## NASHVILLE AND OTHER GARDENS

ELIZABETH N. NESMITH

■ ALL WINTER the members of the American Iris Society were impatient for the good old spring to arrive so that we could journey to Nashville for the Annual Meeting, and rumors of the plans for our entertainment stimulated our interest to the extent that many of us counted the days until we could leave for The Iris City.

It is a saying in the Society that when we go to Nashville for a meeting "it is the best ever," and this year they more than lived up to their reputation. Never, and I am a charter member of the Society, have I attended a meeting where we have been more graciously entertained, and shown so many fine iris from all parts of the country as were on exhibition in the different gardens at the time of the Nashville meeting. The wonderful cooperation and thoughtful planning for our enjoyment and comfort will be remembered for a long time.

There was sadness in the thought that Dr. Kirkland with his dry wit, and Mr. Washington with his quiet, gracious manner, were not there. Both of them would have been very pleased to see how their instructions and assistance in iris breeding have helped to produce such a representative number of iris hybridizers in the younger generation. Their friendly spirit of cooperation is most refreshing; each one is interested in the work of the others, with no petty jealousy among them.

The Nashville meeting opened with a "get-together" breakfast at the Hermitage Hotel. It was an inspiration to start it this way for it gave an opportunity to meet newer members, and to receive the greetings of friends and acquaintances from all parts of the country. Everyone was in a holiday spirit and eager to participate in the opening of the iris season.

At nine o'clock we sallied forth in large, comfortable busses. Our first stop was at the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Horn. Their charming home and spacious grounds make an especially attractive setting for their iris garden. Here they grow many of the finer named varieties and some excellent seedlings produced by Mr. Horn. I noticed some very fine clear blues with splendid substance and branching; several large well-formed whites, and two yellows that

AUG 25 1941



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nesmith and Mrs. Geddes Douglas in  
the lovely sloping hillside garden of the Douglases*

seemed distinctive—these were marked for further observation and give promise of being worthy of introduction.

If I may digress from iris for a moment, I would like to tell you that Mr. Horn has another delightful hobby, that of collecting old books, prints, and engravings; his library is filled with rare old books that might well be the envy of a connoisseur. He has some most interesting old prints of iris, which, if I remember correctly, he found in an old shop in New Orleans.

It was impossible for Mrs. Kirkland to be in Nashville at the time of the iris meeting, so many did not go to her garden, but those of us who have spent so many happy hours with Dr. and Mrs. Kirkland felt the meeting was not quite complete without her gracious presence.

The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wills contains the largest and finest collection of the newest iris that we saw in Nashville. They are from all parts of the country and gave many of the visitors their first opportunity of seeing some of the high spots in iris breeding. The grounds are surrounded by a brick wall banked by shrubs

and evergreens, which make a wonderful background for groups of the better iris carefully planted for color contrast or harmony of arrangement. In front is the greensward of the lawn, and Mr. Wills is to be congratulated on the effectiveness and beauty of this planting.

Back of the house we found large beds containing the very newest iris beautifully grown and well displayed for comparison. There were so many that space will allow me to tell you only about a few of the most recent ones.

RED GLEAM was on display. It is a very red iris and I liked it very much, but CHRISTABEL has a very warm spot in my heart for general all-around performance. However, this comparison may not be fair for the latter was in a well-established clump, whereas RED GLEAM was a newer planting. HOOISIER SUNRISE is another of Mr. Lapham's iris that impressed me as being one of the best pinks of warm coloring.

In this garden we found most of the newer finer yellows: SPUN GOLD, PRINCE OF ORANGE, GOLDEN SPIKE, YELLOW JEWEL, ELSA SASS, GOLDEN FLEECE, TRIPYCHI, and MING YELLOW. The one flower that was open on SPUN GOLD was just about perfect, and it does seem to have velvet on the falls. GOLDEN SPIKE is a very rich, lively yellow with strong substance. On a first-year plant the flowers seemed a bit open in the standards, but I have been told that when it is well established, this slight fault is corrected. PRINCE OF ORANGE is one of the deepest orange yellows, and, although on a first-year plant, the color was excellent. I shall not go into detail about the others for most of them have been thoroughly discussed in previous articles in the BULLETINS.

LUCERNE, very good medium blue, and OLD ROSE, well described by the name, are two iris from Mr. Salbach that impressed me as being well worthy of a place in any garden. RED VELVET is fine and showed up to good advantage; it is not the reddest red, but it has good substance and is very effective in the garden. STARDOM was in full flower and the color is most entrancing; although not so luscious as MAY DAY, the substance is much better.

A hedge separates this part of the garden from Mr. Wills' "workshop," and near the entrance gate was an excellent medium blue seedling of his that compares favorably with most of the named blues of this tone. Inside the "workshop" there are long beds of seedlings so arranged that it is easy to examine them.

Mr. Wills has a series of pinks that give promise of bringing us some real ones in future generations. A group of red seedlings attracted a great deal of attention, one being very brilliant and clear in color, but unfortunately the plant had suffered some injury so that the bloom stalk was short. However, another year it should do better, and then it can be judged. Another that I noted was a very smoothly finished flower deeper than NARANJA and with no flecking to mar its unique coloring. Seedling 48-4-41 attracted a great deal of attention with its sea-foam yellow standards and falls of deep lemon yellow blending out to pale cream, with just a touch of pale wistaria blue at the base of the lemon yellow beard. It has strong stalks and excellent branching.

Our luncheon at the Bellemeade Country Club, where we were the guests of the Nashville Iris Association, was most delightful and was an example of the delectable food and true Southern hospitality always found in Nashville.

In the afternoon we journeyed to the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth Caldwell. The Hill garden is one of the largest and best laid out iris gardens that I know, with its wide grass paths extending the whole length of the garden. One especially interesting feature is the large central beds that are devoted to large plantings of iris that have been awarded The Dykes Memorial Medal. All of the American, and many of the foreign varieties that have won this award are planted in great masses, and it is most interesting to study the advancement from year to year in the quality of these iris. The iris garden is a minor part of the gardens surrounding the Hill home where from early spring until late summer there is continuous bloom from bulbs, flowering shrubs, and perennials. Many of the very large stately trees that add so much to the general beauty of the place are well over a hundred years old.

Next door is the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth Caldwell, with many of the best iris well displayed. However, a large portion of their garden is in the process of re-arranging for they found that the wide open spaces gave too much sweep to the wind that is so detrimental to the iris. In the new arrangement the garden is being surrounded by evergreens, dogwoods, flowering cherries, and other shrubs that will act as a windbreak, and here the iris will be protected and will, as well, have the advantage of a background of greenery. Mr. Caldwell has several very interesting seedlings,



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*A busy group of judges taking notes on new iris*

among them one of very rich deep yellow tones giving an orange effect, two light yellows with an overflush of deeper yellow, a brilliant strawberry red, and a most interesting yellow bicolor. I was greatly attracted to a very lovely white and a very good deep blue. Unfortunately, the finest seedling in Mr. Caldwell's garden is late flowering and was not in bloom until after the visit to the garden. It has been named TISHOMINGO and is a very large flower of pale wistaria blue, an absolute self with highly domed standards, very flaring falls, and the heaviest substance that I have ever seen in an iris bloom. It had very strong sturdy stalks and excellent branching.

After visiting these two gardens, we wended our way to Dauntless Hill, the summer home of Mr. Clarence Connell, and words will not convey the charm of this place with its beautiful vistas, most attractive house, and, on the lower level, the iris garden filled with the best of the older and newer varieties, planted in broad sweeps of color and sheltered from the winds by a thick copse of cedars. There we saw the Connell originations. The famous DAUNTLESS and BONSOR were in full bloom, as was the lovely and unusual GLEN

ELLEN. A large planting of his blue and white plicata named PICOTEE was a most refreshing sight. It is not a large flower, but it is the clearest blue plicata that there is, and it has great garden value.

A pale blue seedling in Mr. Connell's garden seemed to be most distinctive and quite different from the one named TWILIGHT BLUE by Dr. Kirkland. It blooms much later, is more clear blue in color, and gives an entirely different effect in the garden.

Mr. Connell has a most attractive new iris that I have watched for two years, and I find it very dependable in form, behavior, and garden value. It is a bright dusty pink with a strong suffusion of gold showing through and an illusive flush of blue just below the full yellow beard. Mr. Connell has named this iris COMRADE as a dedication to his comrades, Chancellor Kirkland and Mr. Washington, and it is a very lovely tribute to their friendship of many years.

As a fitting end to this busy day, we were given a good old Southern barbecue supper at Dauntless Hill by Mr. Connell, Mr. and Mrs. Geddes Douglas, Mrs. T. A. Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wills, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Williams, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sturtevant. We sat around the grounds under the grand old trees and ate and ate, and in this case the old saying, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof," was clearly demonstrated by our enjoyment.

The next morning we gathered at the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Williams and found it as lovely as ever with many very interesting iris on display. Most of the named varieties of Dr. Kirkland's origination were in full bloom. BROWN THRASHER was the center of attention, everyone wishing to see this new iris that had flowered for the first time the last spring that Dr. Kirkland was with us. I think it may be called the Chancellor's masterpiece for it is the richest deep brown iris that has been produced and merits all the praise that has been given it. So far I have not seen it as tall as I would like, but Mr. Walter Vestal, of Little Rock, Ark., the joint owner of the Kirkland iris, told me that it grew taller in his garden, and next year I hope to show it to you on a taller stalk in Lowell. I shall never forget the look of pride and quiet satisfaction on the Chancellor's face the morning he took me to see its first flower.

RISING SUN, a very handsome iris, another from Dr. Kirkland, is a very deep pink blend showing some Dominion influence in its form and growth, with flowers of heavy substance. BRIGHTWOOD is a pleasing rose blend with a suffusion of yellow in the center of

the flower. It is one of the Williams' originations and was a great favorite in the garden. Two others of Mr. Williams' that I thought especially good were SPOTLIGHT and STARWOOD, seedlings from GOLDEN HIND, with the brilliant color of the parent, but better in size and branching.

The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Geddes Douglas is one of the most lovely and interesting in Nashville and is ideally arranged to display iris to the best advantage. It is a series of terraces with broad grass paths bordered with long beds of iris. Not only can one examine closely the blooms, but looking down from one level to another gives a splendid opportunity to judge the garden value of the different varieties. Here we saw many of the best new varieties from all parts of the country, perfectly grown in spite of the very dry season, and visitors marveled at their height and vigor.

We saw an excellent stalk of PRAIRIE SUNSET and the color was very outstanding, especially in the sunlight. A seedling from Mr. David Hall attracted a great deal of attention. It is a deep but very brilliant reddish brown and, to my mind, is the finest iris of the Hall originations that I have seen. The number was 40-46. Mr. Lapham's L-8 is a very lovely tall pink between the color of EROS and SANDIA, with rather large, rounded flowers and excellent branching. The most colorful iris in the garden was a seedling, 38-11, from Mr. Carl Carpenter, with its blending of copper, orange, yellow, red, and violet. It was not a large flower, but it was so brilliant that it was almost dazzling. I think it is to be named Joy. Another Carpenter seedling of great interest was 40-75, a rich dark blend with boldly flaring flowers and very heavy substance.

TITIAN LADY, WHITE PRINCE, STARBRIGHT, and PHOEBE, all originations of Mr. Douglas', were in full bloom and attracted many visitors, as did SUN SPOT, CAROLINE BURR, YELLOW JEWEL, GOLDEN MAJESTY, and many others of the newer iris.

Mr. Douglas had an exceptionally fine lot of seedlings this year, and they were the center of attention in his garden. No. 41-4, named CHICORY BLUE, is well described by the name for that is the exact color according to Ridgway. It is a large, beautifully formed flower of medium blue; the clarity of color and splendid branching put it in the top rank of the new blues. No. 41-12 was a large white of very heavy substance and great lasting qualities, the flowers remaining open for four days. No. 41-13, another white, has flowers



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*Mrs. Martha Reckless, Mrs. Geddes Douglas, Mrs. J. P. Fishburn, and Mrs. Kenneth D. Smith in Mr. Wills' garden*

which are evenly spaced on four-way branching stalks. These two white seedlings were from a cross of CATHEDRAL DOME and STELLA POLARIS, they combine the best qualities of both, and it was quite remarkable that this set of seedlings was almost all whites, and so many of them were good that it was necessary to save several for further observation. No. 41-11 is a very glowing smooth yellow and, when closely compared with SPUN GOLD, seemed equally brilliant, and of much firmer substance.

Since the death of Mr. Washington, the town garden of the Washingtons has been given up, and last year the iris were all moved to their farm where Mrs. Washington and her daughter, Mrs. Walter Reckless, are carrying on the breeding work. Due to the very dry season, many of their new named varieties and seedlings were not in bloom at the time of our visit to their planting. However, there was one seedling that aroused a great deal of interest and favorable comment. It was 41-4, and I think it is to be named LADY FAIR. The coloring is most lovely, with standards of Venetian pink, falls of lighter color veined with deeper pink, and the center, made more glowing by the peach-red beard.

The day after the members visited their garden, there were two new seedlings in bloom that seemed especially good. One, 41-7, is a very velvety, decidedly brown-red iris with golden Hays russet standards and Brazilian red fall bordered by rich brown. This iris bids fair to being the finest iris that Mr. Washington produced. The other, 41-15, was a deep Indian red that reminded me of the color of the iris STAINED GLASS, but the flowers were larger, and the substance much more heavy.

Our festivities of the meeting reached the climax with a banquet at the Hermitage Hotel. It was not a dry, prosaic evening, but one filled with interest, for the sparkling wit and repartee of the different speakers were most entertaining.

Our President, Mr. McKee, presented Mrs. Peckham with the American Iris Society Gold Medal in appreciation of her splendid work in preparing the new *Check List*. Mr. Connell spoke of the passing of Chancellor Kirkland and Mr. Washington, and his personal feeling in the loss of these two friends was echoed by all who had known them. He also acted as toastmaster and was at his best. His keen sense of humor and ease in speaking were a delight to all those listening, and the discussion carried on by Mrs. Peckham, Mr. Sturtevant, and Mr. Hall on the different qualities of iris was most stimulating.

At the end of the evening, good-byes were said for many of the members were leaving in the morning. On behalf of the Society, I am expressing our thanks for everything, and may we be invited soon again to meet in Nashville.

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■ AFTER LEAVING Nashville, we stopped in Louisville to see Dr. and Mrs. Grant, and I think you will be delighted to know that Dr. Grant seemed quite like his old self and was busy looking over his new seedlings and making arrangements to move his most choice iris to their new home. I was very much pleased by the high class of his seedlings. Some were selected for introduction, and many were saved for further observation.

His new blue, 41-7, named SPARKLING BLUE, is well described by the name, for it is a powder blue self with a very sparkling sheen, large full flowers, and exceptionally good branching. No. 41-2, to be named BIT o' HEAVEN, is a pale yellow reverse bicolor with Martius yellow standards and white falls bordered with the same

yellow as the standards. It is charming in every way. No. 41-12, GOLD DOME, is a much deeper yellow with a decided white area just below the thick yellow beard. It is a gleaming yellow with great garden value.

BURNISHED COPPER was even more lovely this year than last, and rich in copper, brown, and red evenly blended into the burnished tones we find in old Russian copper. POT OF GOLD is the most brilliant deep yellow iris that I know, and compared with it GOLDEN HIND, one of its parents, seems almost pallid. CORAL MIST was a mass of bloom, and although it is delicate and dainty in color, its lovely coral tones withstand sun, wind, and rain to a surprising degree. It is a great favorite.

Another very fine Kentucky iris is number 140 of Mr. Carl Carpenter, Owensboro. It is a very light violet self with a silvery lustre dusted over the whole flower, heavy substance, and excellent branching.

From Louisville we went to Cincinnati to visit Mr. John D. Wareham and spent two delightful days going over his seedlings. As most of us know, Mr. Wareham has been interested in iris hybridizing for many years, and was one of the first in America to use Dominion blood in breeding. Since then he has produced many fine iris. Among the newer ones are TRIPTYCH, MEDITERRANEE, ROOKWOOD, VISION FUGITIVE, and GIN FIZZ. He is an artist with a keen sense of color combination and value, and he seems to have imparted these to many of his seedlings; you find very few of them with muddy colors, most being clear, solid colors or very harmonious blends. This year he had some exceptionally lovely new seedlings.

Mr. Wareham's 41-4 is a most brilliant iris, a blending of Spinel red, Rosolane purple, and rich copper, giving the effect of gleaming Tyrian rose or deep Daphne pink; very handsome and of unusual color. This was in a group of seedlings of reds with copper overtones, and several were selected for further observation. It was surprising to note how uniform in quality the whole group seemed, and it was difficult to decide upon those to eliminate. There were several fine whites and yellows, and 41-19 impressed me as being especially good. It is a large rounded flower of amber yellow with very wide standards and falls, smooth firm finish and excellent branching.

Many that have visited Mr. Wareham's garden will remember a

rather small but very lovely iris with a vivid pinkish tangerine beard that he registered under the name of GOLD FISH. For many years he was not successful in crossing it, but this year in his seedlings was a larger and much improved GOLD FISH, and from this seedling doubtless there will come others with this intense beard and unusual coloring. However, the sensation of the whole garden was his magnificent new seedling named JAVA SKY. It is impossible to give a word picture of this iris, but if you can imagine the colors of PRAIRIE SUNSET, STARDOM, and DUBROVNIK, all blended into one iris, perhaps you can in some measure visualize its brilliance. It has strong, heavy substance, glowing colors which do not fade, and excellent form and branching. It is the most colorful and unusual blending of colors that I have ever seen, and too much cannot be said in its praise.

From Mr. Wareham's we journeyed on toward home, taking in Mr. and Mrs. Fishburn's magnificent display of iris and the charming garden of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Douglas, as well as seeing the earlier seedlings in Mr. and Mrs. Smith's garden. But, as these are all to be written up by others, I will say only that all three had splendid displays of iris.

In New England the iris season was about ten days earlier than usual. With all the gardens rushing into bloom at nearly the same time, it was impossible for me to see all at their best, but I was fortunate in seeing several of them at their height of bloom. Therefore, I shall leave the rest to others who are writing about the New England gardens.

The garden of President McKee was exceptionally good this year, with many of the newest iris on exhibition, splendidly grown, and well arranged. On the upper terrace there was a group of the newer yellows that proved most interesting, and gave a good opportunity for studying and comparing them. In this group were such varieties as MING YELLOW, GOLDEN MAJESTY, YELLOW JEWEL, SPUN GOLD, and GOLDEN SPIKE. They were all well grown, each quite different in form and tone of yellow, and all had certain points of merit, so I found it impossible to single out one of them as being the most outstanding yellow. In fact, all of them are worthy of a place in any garden.

Other newer varieties that were in splendid condition and received much favorable comment were; WAKARUSA, a radiant combination of orange and gleaming red; MIRABELLE, a beautiful blend-



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*A group of iris judges in Mr. Wills' workshop*

ing of creamy apricot and pink, looked so lovely that everyone was entranced by it; DEEP VELVET was most spectacular with a tall strong stalk filled with blooms; and WEST POINT, one of the last to bloom, put on a splendid show and made a very colorful clump in the garden.

MARY VERNON is a new iris bred by Mr. McKee, and I was most favorably impressed by it, not only for its beauty of form, but for its great garden value. The standards are antique gold; the falls of Chianti ruby are bordered by the same antique gold of the standards. A flaring flower of strong substance, excellent form and branching, it gives a very brown-red effect in the garden.

Mr. McKee had several seedlings that showed great promise. Among them was 40-29. According to *The Dictionary of Color*, it is a deep Adam brown mahogany self with very thick velvety substance in the falls. It is most outstanding not only for its richness of color, but for its firm, large flowers and strong texture and good branching. No. 4190 was one that attracted a great deal of attention with its chrome yellow standards, broad and full, and white falls edged with deep chrome yellow. The excellent form, substance, and color combination is most effective. No. 4183 has a most

unusual and intriguing combination of color with standards of deep cream and semi-flaring falls of pale blue in contrast with the brilliant yellow beard. It has exceptionally firm substance in the flowers, which are large and well placed on 42-inch stalks. I was extremely impressed and interested in a series of seedlings that were very deep in color and almost devoid of all red-purple tones so often seen in so-called "red" iris. Mr. McKee is to be congratulated on the beauty of his seedlings this year.

Mrs. Peckham and I spent a most pleasant morning with Miss Grace Sturtevant in her lovely garden, and, as always, there were many interesting iris to see, not only her own originations, but many varieties from all parts of the country. This season there were several new seedlings of exceptional merit. Among them was 3-1941, a very distinctive brownish red bicolor, almost a self except for the great depth of color in the falls due to their rich, very velvety finish. Broad well formed flowers and excellent branching. No. 2-1941 was most outstanding, with a very stunning and glowing combination of colors. My notes read, "A deeper and richer DUBROVNIK."

Two extremely interesting deep yellows, and several rosy copper blends seemed to show great promise and were reserved for observation next season. Miss Sturtevant has produced many beautiful iris, but I know of none more delightful and appealing than one we saw that morning. The standards were beautifully formed, of clear rose pink with semi-flaring falls of white and just the faintest pink flush near the cool yellow beard. It is a gem in color harmony.

Next I visited the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Graves, of Concord, N. H. Certainly Dr. Graves has demonstrated how iris may be grown in New England, for never have I seen such strong, sturdy growth, such large flowers, and such marvelous branching as in the iris in his garden. Not only his own seedlings, but varieties from all parts of the country seem to grow as if by magic, and the originators of them would be very proud to see how beautifully they behave in a northern New England garden.

Snow FLURRY was at its best in this garden, or at least better than I have ever seen it, and I could come near to realizing that perhaps in the West it might have 17 flowers and buds on one stalk. The blooms are very lovely. Two seedlings from Mr. Jacob Sass were excellent: 39-73, a very fine red brown; and 40-467, a large light rose blend. OLD PARCHMENT was at the height of its bloom

and made a charming picture with its beautifully finished flowers and splendid branching. Other varieties that attracted my attention were **AZTEC COPPER**, with its very large flowers of blended copper, and **LANCASTER**, a blended pink which was in full flower and which is a great credit to Mr. Paul Cook.

When I visited the garden of Dr. Graves it was late afternoon of the day after the Boston Iris Show, where he took all the medals and most of the prizes. Visitors and friends that had come from all parts of New Hampshire to congratulate him made the occasion seem like a huge reception. His friends and neighbors are very proud of his garden and his work with iris. For several years I have been impressed with the high quality of Dr. Graves' seedlings, but this year they nearly overpowered me with their great variation in color, their flowers of beautiful form and heavy substance, and the marvelous branching of the stalks. The following are those that I thought most outstanding.

**Snow CARNIVAL** is well named, for it is a very large pure white with strong domed standards and firm, very flaring falls. Although the flowers are very large, they withstood a 48-hour wind in the garden and seemed not to have been affected. The flowers are slightly ruffled and evenly spaced on strong, sturdy stalks.

**Hi-Ho** is one of the largest and best yellows that I know with very firm substance and wide branching. It is a creamy yellow with a heavy over-flush of cadmium yellow covering most of the surface of the falls. A very brilliant iris.

**KATHARINE LARMON**, a dark but glowing blend of honey yellow, burnished copper, and Dresden brown, is very rich in color harmony, with ruffled flaring flowers and deep orange beard. This iris attracted a great deal of attention in the garden.

**AND THOU** was the center of interest in the garden back of the house with its very large, firm, rounded flowers of pale Wedgewood blue, with a deeper blue flush in the center of the flower. The base of the beard is a deep blue, tipped white, and adds to the distinction of the bloom. It has heavy substance and strong sturdy stalks.

**FRANCONIA**, named for a snow-capped peak in the White Mountains, was the sensation of the Boston Iris Show, where it was given the award of Highly Commended. The flowers are very large with perfectly domed standards and broad flaring falls, heavy substance and exceptionally fine branching.

The garden of Dr. and Mrs. Walter E. Tobie on Cape Elizabeth,

Me., blooms about ten days later than do ours around Boston, so each year many of the A.I.S. judges spend a most instructive and pleasant day leisurely going around the garden enjoying the clear air, the delightful luncheon, and most of all the beautiful iris so well grown. Mrs. Tobie has used great care in the planting of the iris with special attention being paid to the arrangement of harmonious colors as well as to color contrast. The garden is surrounded by shrubs and evergreen trees that make an ideal setting for the long beds of iris, so arranged that you get great sweeps of color with broad grass paths between that add so much to any planting. Here are grown many of the newest iris as well as Mrs. Tobie's own varieties and seedlings. She has produced some very lovely iris, among them **MALLORCA**, **CLOVELLY**, and **SPURWINK**.

In the seedling beds there were several excellent whites, two lovely yellows, all with excellent branching and form, and quite a few others that the judges recommended be saved for further observation. However, there was one new seedling, named **DOWN EAST** by Mrs. Tobie, that stole the whole show of the garden. It is the darkest, yet most brilliant, deep glowing Anthracene purple that it has ever been my good fortune to see. The flowers are large, of excellent substance, a self with very velvety falls, and the color extends down into the throat with no haft venations to mar the richness of the flower. The heavy purple beard, tipped bronze, adds to the depth of color of this stunning new iris. Another that the judges thought especially attractive was her new copper, named **SHANUNGA BRONZE**, a very flaring flower of lighter and more brilliant colors than **COPPER LUSTRE**.

In closing, I wish to tell of our visit to the beautiful iris garden of the late Mrs. Herman E. Lewis, of Haverhill, Mass. Mr. Lewis invited us to come for an afternoon and see the iris, which were in wonderful condition and showed plainly the great care and thought that Mrs. Lewis had given to their selection.

**MAYLING SOONG**, one of Mrs. Lewis' own lovely yellows, was in full flower, and as we all stood around admiring its beauty, the thought came to me that if there is any returning from the other side of the river, I am sure Mrs. Lewis was with us that afternoon. Her sweet gracious manner and charm always will be remembered by her friends, and in our New England group her passing leaves a void that cannot be filled.

## IMPRESSIONS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

AGNES WHITING

■ THE 1940 annual meeting of the American Iris Society, held on May 9-10, in Nashville, the iris city of the world, was an outstanding success. The 154 registrations showed the largest attendance on record, and the carefully worked-out plans of the committee in charge made the entire program most enjoyable. Southern hospitality is not over-rated—we were entertained royally. The meeting was an appropriate climax for Nashville's "Iris Week," which is celebrated annually by the Nashville Iris Association. Attractive folders were distributed containing descriptions of the gardens and a map showing the location of the various public and private iris plantings open to the public as well as to the members of the American Iris Society during Iris Week.

Registration began at eight o'clock Friday morning in the lobby of the Hermitage Hotel. It was like a great family reunion, and had it not been for the efficiency of the program committee, the whole morning might have been spent with members from North and South greeting and chatting with members from East and West. Quite likely, if every iris in America should mysteriously stop blooming, the members of the American Iris Society would go right on having their annual meetings for the sheer joy of seeing each other! The Get-together Breakfast in the Grill Room was a delightful affair, and it was hard to break away to make the busses for the garden tours.

The first garden we were taken to was that of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley F. Horn on Golf Club Lane. Here we saw an excellent example of the use of iris in an extensive formal plan—we might learn much from Mr. and Mrs. Horn and other Nashville gardeners about the effective landscape use of our favorite flower. Mr. Horn's seedlings were very interesting, and he shows a deep love of color and good form in his work with iris.

The home garden of Mrs. J. H. Kirkland was the next one visited, and although we were all saddened by the absence of our genial friend, the late Chancellor Kirkland, the garden was very lovely and brought back many pleasant memories of previous visits there. We recalled how, in 1937, when Mrs. Hall congratulated him on

what he had accomplished in his new garden, he replied, "The Lord helped, but He mighty nigh ruined me this spring with that late frost." We remembered, too, his story about the lady who came to the garden very early one morning and found a shabby old man (no other than the Chancellor himself in garden attire!) working among the flowers. After he had shown her about, she handed him a dollar and said, "Thank you, my good man, and do tell the Chancellor I enjoyed his garden very much." A complete collection of the iris developed and named by Dr. Kirkland, as well as many of those from other introducers, made a most interesting and attractive planting. Mrs. Kirkland's intimate little garden, just west of the main plantings, showed her exquisite taste for subdued color. The lovely iris **ASHES OF ROSES** seemed her favorite here; she says it reminds her of a dress her mother wore. Magnificent box and yew give charming colonial character to this lovely garden.

The comparatively new and beautifully designed home and garden of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wills was next on our tour, and we reveled in the wide expanses of green lawns enclosed by a brick wall along which were planted groups of evergreens and flowering shrubs. Against this effective background, generous clumps of iris were grouped informally but very carefully for color harmony. One group flowed into another, and the sweep and interplay of color down the sides of the lawn were as fascinating as the smaller pictures made by the individual groupings. **WABASH** and **AMIGO** were stunning planted in front of **EROS** and **ALINE**. An effective combination of strong color was **NARANJA** with **INDIAN HILLS**; **HAPPY DAYS** and **EL CAPITAN** bloomed together against a mass of coral honeysuckle climbing over the wall. **JEAN CAYEUX** and **OZONE** made a charming color note, and coppery orange **FIESTA** was lovely near **WAVERLY** and **EXCLUSIVE**, with a planting of **COPPER LUSTRE**, **SUMMER CLOUD** and deep violet **BRUNHILDE** near by. Mr. Wills has even solved the problem of the red-toned iris by grouping together the softer toned ones such as **ROSY WINGS**, **MAYA**, and **E. B. WILLIAMSON** near light blues such as **SHINING WATERS**, and putting the deeper toned ones such as **CHRISTABEL** with soft yellows like **SNOQUALMIE**. The newer pink blends were lovely among soft yellows and pale blues. The gateway to the more formal back garden was flanked by a stunning clump of **GREAT LAKES** on one side and a magnificent planting of **GOLDEN TREASURE** and **AUBANEL** on the other.

As we entered this gate, we looked down a long panel of grass

bordered with iris and other perennials to the lovely colonial garden house, while to the right across a spacious lawn were the trial beds where most of the better new varieties from all over the world were at their peak of bloom. Here the ardent fans milled with notebooks and fevered anxiety lest some of them be missed. The plants were beautifully grown, and it was a splendid opportunity to study the new originations from far and near. Among the many fine things, DEEP VELVET and SPUN GOLD showed up prominently, and of the very new ones, a small bloom of Henry Sass' shell pink seedling with the heavy shrimp beard attracted much attention. We saw this later in an established planting at the Sass gardens and considered it very outstanding both as a complete color break and as a delicately toned, appealing iris. It has been named FLORA ZENOR. But never are iris people too busy to visit, and if one stopped talking long enough to listen to the ensemble, it sounded like a bridge tea or an orchestra tuning up. Many wandered on to the seedling garden separated from the main ones by a high hedge. In this work shop Mr. Wills is producing many fine things. Especially notable were his group of glowing reds, a beautiful deep yellow, 121-1-41, and a brilliant blend, 136-1-41. May his rare enthusiasm continue!

It was with reluctance that we left the garden to go to the Bellemeade Country Club for lunch as guests of the Nashville Iris Association. But it was with great enthusiasm that we filled our plates at the sumptuously laden buffet tables and went back for seconds and thirds from the miraculously refilled dishes. Well fed and happy, we piled into the busses again and were taken to "Hillwood," the beautiful estate of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hill, and adjoining it, the charming gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth Caldwell. "Hillwood" is well named, for here the long-established plantings of marvelous old evergreens and trees gave a setting of rare beauty and grandeur. A broad vista among the trees gave a wonderful opportunity for seeing a large formal planting of iris, wide swaths of harmonious color. Many of us took turns climbing the stone wall to get pictures of the panorama of color backed by stately evergreens. The Caldwell garden, too, is graced with the priceless setting of old trees and shrubs with plantings of iris in profusion among them. Mr. Caldwell showed us some excellent seedlings, about which he is far too modest. We think his work will bear careful watching.

After a long and pleasant ride, we came to the summer home of



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bretschneider, Mrs. Barron Lambert, Mr. Berkley Williams, Little Miss Ellen Wills, Mr. David Hall, and Mrs. M. N. Ream are interested on-lookers*

Clarence P. Connell. Words cannot describe this delightful spot. Romance hovers round it, and one wishes that he might have been there in daffodil time as his eyes wander over the stretches of naturalized plantings under the trees, or that he might linger on till daffodil time again. The picturesque cottage built by Mr. Connell with its exquisitely fashioned hand-made furniture and beautiful paintings held such fascination for us that we were loath to leave it for the garden. Going down the wide stone steps toward the iris plantings, a magnificent view through a vista in the native cedars showed the city and the hills beyond like a story-book picture. Broad stretches of iris in mass plantings against a background of flowering shrubs and trees flanked our path. On we went, down the hill to the seedling patch, still dreaming of how the dogwood and redbud and narcissus must have looked in April. Here Mr. Connell declared were the world's worst seedlings, but we found he was wrong as we discovered lovely clear yellows with excellent branching, pearly whites of rare beauty, rich reds and soft blends. One rosy red self, later named *COMRADE*, brought into the upper garden

and planted in a large clump, was growing beautifully in the afternoon sunlight. Our attention was called to a stalk of a new red seedling brought by a quiet lad, Charles Sill, from his home in Atlanta, Ga. It was a beautiful thing whose parentage, VALOR  $\times$  (CHEERIO  $\times$  DAUNTLSS  $\times$  KING MIDAS), showed careful breeding. In talking about his hybridizing, he disclosed that he had been working along very definite breeding lines, telling us also of a blue self from MISSOURI  $\times$  (ALINE  $\times$  a Wedgewood seedling). Here is another young man whose work deserves to become better known.

Then we found we were hungry again as the fragrant odor of barbecued ham filled the air. Mr. Connell, the Geddes Douglasses, Mrs. T. A. Washington, the Jesse Willses, the T. A. Williamses, and the Robert Sturtevants had joined forces to serve us a delicious barbecue supper with all the trimmings. In this beautiful setting we ate with splendid appetites and great appreciation, remaining to enjoy the garden in the deepening shadows till the insistent honk of the last bus horn reminded us that it was a long way back to the hotel.

Several informal groups gathered together to spend the rest of the evening. The Tom Williamses entertained an appreciative gathering at which Tom's famous mint juleps were the *piece de resistance*. Another thirsty group converged in the Fishburn suite at the Hermitage, and a large party of color photography fans gathered in the rooms of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Claar at the "Andrew Jackson" to see Mr. Claar's colored movies of the new Hemerocallis seedlings of Dr. Stout, Mrs. Nesmith, and others. So many enthusiastic friends arrived that the hotel provided a projection room for the showing.

Saturday morning found many of the A. I. S. members up bright and early, a few of them very bright and very early. Tom Williams had asked some of us to participate in his Old Dirt Dobber radio program over the Columbia network at seven o'clock. This is a weekly Saturday morning garden program, and he wanted to give special recognition to the convening of the A. I. S. in Nashville. We found the garden house wired for transmission and a crew of technicians and photographers on hand. A log fire beat back the chill of "blackberry winter" and made a cheerful studio. It also warmed the shaking knees of our doughty president, Mr. McKee, who had never before talked over the radio. He performed like a veteran, however, giving a pithy talk on the far-reaching interest



*Kodachrome by F. W. Cassebeer*

*Visiting the extensive planting of iris on the estate of  
Mr. H. G. Hill*

in national flower organizations and presenting the 1940 Dykes Medal award to Mary Williamson for the iris **WABASH**, to which Mary responded graciously in her acceptance. Cameras clicked. Mr. Fishburn talked of the work and aims of the A. I. S. and your correspondent was given the privilege of presenting that week's award for the "Order of the Green Thumb" to a fellow Iowan, Mrs. Gretchen Harshbarger, of Iowa City.

A delightful breakfast in the Williams' garden rewarded the early birds after the broadcast, and we had a preview of the garden and were ready to help greet the bus loads of members when they came out a little later. Wide, spacious, most effectively planned, this is a garden in which to spend more than a few hours. Eight and a half acres of iris are most attractively displayed in what is really a series of gardens. Mr. Williams' own introductions, all of the introductions of Chancellor Kirkland, and hundreds of the finer varieties from other breeders gave the students of iris much to enjoy. Outstanding among these were **BROWN THRASHER**, a brilliant red-brown iris; **RISING SUN**, an immense, deep pink bicolor, and **BURNISHED GOLD**, a rich yellow, all from Dr. Kirkland's seedlings.

THE GUARDSMAN, from Dr. Grant, and GLEN ELLEN from Mr. Connell, made excellent showings, as did STARWOOD, SPOTLIGHT, and SUNWOOD, recently chosen from the Williams' seedlings. Photographers became a menace and many timid souls took refuge among the new seedling beds beyond the formal plantings. Here we found that, busy as he is, Mr. Williams is carrying on with hybridizing, with the invaluable assistance of Mrs. Williams and Peggy. Many exceptionally fine new seedlings were blooming for the first time with lovely clear blues and entrancing blends vying with russet browns and clear, fine yellows. No. 734, a pansy red, created much interest.

Came the bus call, and on we went to the unusual and very attractive hillside garden of Mr. and Mrs. Geddes Douglas. The iris seemed very contented on these terraced slopes as there was a profusion of excellent bloom. Mrs. Nesmith's lovely MELITZA aroused much interest and favorable comment, as did also her SUNDANCE and SARACEN. Kenneth Smith's YELLOW JEWEL was blooming beautifully, and two newer yellow seedlings, K 10, very deep and rich, and K 11, a lovely soft cream, were outstanding. His STELLA POLARIS, a splendid white, and CAROLINE BURR, a superb ivory self, were exceptionally fine. VIOLET SYMPHONY seemed a glorified VIOLET CROWN. Geddes Douglas has some very fine new originations of his own, and it is inspiring to see these young people doing such worthwhile things, and with such fervor, in iris breeding. TITIAN LADY was an imposing beauty, a clear, sparkling white with a heavy Titian red beard, a striking personality. PHOEBE showed a charming departure in color, a symphony in green and gold. The crowd kept gathering about a fine new blue seedling, 41-4, since named CHICOREE BLUE because of its lovely clear coloring. No. 41-13, a grand new white, and 41-11, a very good yellow, attracted considerable attention. SNOW DROP, a low garden white of graceful form and exceptionally pure coloring, made a charming clump. A splendid fuchsia purple self, C 3, from Fred Cassebeer's studio, and 27-5, a lovely light blue from Dr. Franklin Cook's laboratory, showed that more of our young members are using their ability and skill in hybridizing. Carl Carpenter had some very interesting seedlings on display—38-11, a brilliant copper self of medium size, and 40-75, a soft and delicate blend. A delightful guest from Elkhart was Mr. Lapham's L-8, a pink-lavender seedling whose three open flowers were carried on a tall and well-branched stalk. A block of David

Hall's seedlings loomed up in true Hallcroft style. No. 40-46, a burnt orange self from CORONET and PRAIRIE SUNSET, created a sensation. No. 40-33 was an excellent clear blue, and 39-27, a fine coppery blend. It was difficult to leave this interesting garden even to go to the lunch prepared for us at the Stork Club in Brentwood.

After lunch the busses took us to the farm belonging to Mrs. T. A. Washington. Mrs. Washington has a planting, situated on the top of a grassy hill, of all of the named varieties of the late Mr. Washington. Here we saw COPPER CRYSTAL, FAIRY LUSTER, SOUTHERN GEM, LANTERN GLOW, and again a large clump of MELITZA. A sensational new seedling, No. 441, was the high point of the visit. Unlike the Sass pink, FLORA ZENOR, which has something of the tone of a red raspberry, this seedling is a shrimp pink with deeper lines at the haft.

A happy ending for the two days of delightful sight-seeing was the Annual Banquet in the main dining room of the Hermitage hotel. A delicious dinner was served, after which came a thrilling musical interlude, Negro folk songs and spirituals sung by The Fisk Jubilee Singers.

With Mr. Connell as master of ceremonies, the program of talks was conducted informally and the discussions were sparkling, witty, and spontaneous. The questions concerning the score card for rating may not have been settled for all time, but there was much lively and good natured banter exchanged. Whether color, form, substance, or branching should come first in our estimation of a new iris will still be pretty much up to the individual judge. Mr. McKee presented the Gold Medal of the A. I. S. to Mrs. Ethel Anson S. Peckham for her outstanding work for the Society, especially in the preparation of the splendid *Check List*. All present agreed most heartily that hers has been a wonderful contribution, well worthy of the coveted award. And we believe that Mrs. Peckham fully appreciated the honor bestowed upon her.

Our president extended a cordial invitation to the members to come to Boston for the 1942 annual meeting. And so the session ended, although many lingered to visit and make plans for next year. From the jolly Get-together Breakfast to the last good-byes, it was a grand meeting and one long to be most pleasantly remembered.

## GOOD IRIS IN A BAD SEASON

JUNIUS P. FISHBURN

■ ABNORMAL WEATHER—yes, the same old story! Perhaps there never is a normal season; at any rate this one was farther from normal than any I have known recently. Following too open a winter in the Southeast, we had a very dry spring with curiously alternating hot and cold weather. The results were generally poor bloom, short stalks, small flowers, and very little bloom on one-year plants and seedlings. Not only in the Southeast, but elsewhere, the same kind of weather conditions resulted in very early bloom and a very short season. But with it all, there was some good bloom; so here's the story.

An iris enthusiast anxious for the season to begin and clamoring for a preview of it can certainly do no better than to go to Spartanburg, S. C., and see the remarkably interesting garden of Mrs. Lewis Jones Blake. This garden is the best proof I know of the fact that the enthusiasm of an iris collector can be combined into a general garden of rare beauty. First and foremost, this is a gorgeous, well planned garden, everywhere obviously the work of an enthusiastic gardener who knows flowers and trees and shrubs, and who knows how to grow them. Then, as an iris collector who knows iris and their creators, Mrs. Blake has developed her "Hall of Fame" garden—it contains three each of the best iris produced by practically all of the well known American hybridizers—a unique idea which grows more appealing as I have seen it in successive years.

Particularly fine groupings were Kenneth Smith's CAROLINE BURR, STELLA POLARIS, and YELLOW JEWEL; Salbach's MONADNOCK, BRUNHILDE, and MISS CALIFORNIA; Sidney Mitchell's FAIR ELAINE, NARANJA, and CALIFORNIA GOLD; Milliken's MOUNT CLOUD, CHINA MAID, and BLUE SPIRE; Essig's MOUNT WASHINGTON, GOLDEN MADONNA, and SILENT WATERFALL (a group of cream seedlings from Essig in another location was likewise unusually fine); Jake Sass' group, which included THE RED DOUGLAS and GOLDEN FLEECE; and Hans Sass', which included PRAIRIE SUNSET, ELSA SASS, and MIDWEST GEM. Other fine individual stalks seen here were OLD PARCHMENT, RED GLEAM, GLEN ELLEN, MING YELLOW, FRENCH MAID, THE ADMIRAL, SEA BLUE, GOLDEN GLOW, and CAFE AU LAIT (the only time I have ever seen this iris when it impressed me).

Mrs. Blake has a most striking plicata bed with all of the newer Sassafras yellow plicatas and many fine white ones. Then, too, she has a "drift of gold" containing a tremendous number of the better yellows, a most impressive large blue and white border, and a very interesting border of amoenas with which she has included, quite properly, AT DAWNING and AMIGO. One of the best iris seen in Spartanburg was an unnamed blue seedling of Mrs. Pattison's which certainly deserves a name and introduction. If this were not exclusively an iris article, I would have to comment, perhaps without being competent to do so, on the fine display of other flowers, particularly roses, and on many remarkable trees and shrubs which were new to me.

A few days later I went to Nashville. The story of the Nashville meeting is to be covered in detail elsewhere in this BULLETIN; from my point of view it was the most successful meeting during my time in the American Iris Society, with remarkably fine gardens, friendly people, good iris—old and new—such a combination as cannot be found elsewhere in this country. Nothing could please iris enthusiasts more than to find younger hybridizers coming along to take the place of Chancellor Kirkland and Mr. Washington, and to find Clarence Connell, of DAUNTLESS fame, showing renewed interest in his iris seedlings.

Geddes Douglas set the pace for the younger generation this year with a fine lot of seedlings grown in a beautiful garden; his best '41 seedlings were 41-4, a lovely medium blue; and 41-13, a remarkably fine flaring white. Jesse Wills, who has the finest collection of named varieties in Nashville, is beginning to get splendid results from his large number of uniformly fine seedlings; his best one this year seemed to me to be 48-4-41, a flaring cream with an overlay of gold at the haft. He also had some fine things in orange and in red tones.

Tom Williams—the Old Dirt-Dobber himself—again showed us a very lovely garden with many of the Chancellor's best varieties and many good seedlings of his own, particularly two fine yellow seedlings from GOLDEN HIND—STARWOOD and SPOTLIGHT. Then Mrs. Washington and her daughter, Mrs. Martha Reckless, are carrying on Mr. Washington's hybridizing with interesting results. And lastly, the banquet, by far the most interesting Iris Society banquet I have ever attended, and what a real pleasure to have Clarence Connell as toastmaster and Bob Sturtevant and Mrs. Peckham with us again!

But enough for Nashville, and on to Roanoke, where I had the privilege of having about 30 of the Society members who had been in Nashville stop for a visit to my garden. Most of them, however, were there too early for my best bloom, and my best bloom this year was none too good. Where Nashville's bloom seemed better than in 1940, mine seemed inferior to 1940. Among my many disappointments were, first, no bloom or poor bloom on one-year plants, and, second, the poor showing made by a large number of English and French varieties imported just at the outbreak of the war; in the latter case, I shall look forward to better bloom on better established plants next year. But there were occasional good things and the highlights among these are covered in the alphabetical notes at the end of this article.

Shortly after my own season, I spent a day around New York, passing most of the time at Kenneth Smith's garden on Staten Island. It, too, had suffered from drought and hot winds, but there were many exceptionally fine clumps of his introductions and also many interesting new seedlings in a wide variety of colors. As in several other gardens, his CAROLINE BURR, LORD DONGAN, VIOLET SYMPHONY, and YELLOW JEWEL were conspicuously fine. YELLOW GLORY, with a larger and, I think, better flower than YELLOW JEWEL, was likewise outstanding; it had not been introduced because of some doubt as to the height of the stem, but I was delighted to learn several weeks later that it was to be marketed as a 1942 introduction. My guess is that it will be even better liked than YELLOW JEWEL. Among the seedlings blooming for the second time was a baffling display of yellows ranging from pale to deep in color. The deepest one, K-48, now named ALL GOLD, is magnificent in color but is not so pleasing in form to me as some of the others. I particularly liked three lighter ones, K-40, K-5, and K-11. A fine, big variegata, K-39, has since been named THE RED ADMIRAL, and a splendid white, K-21, now bears the name of CASCADE. The best of the seedlings blooming for the first time were I-13, a fine smooth white now called THE WHITE SENTINEL, and I-1, a near-amoena of fine form and color which is called MARIE ANTOINETTE. Mr. Smith had quite a number of interesting plicata seedlings, most of which were derived partly from the Cayeux plicatas. The best of these in my judgment were I-31, now called ILSE LOUISE, and I-24, now called VALENTINE. A very odd one, interesting for breeding, I-23, has been named WOOD THRUSH. Mr. Smith grows most of

the recent Cayeux varieties, and while not many of them compare favorably with the better American varieties, among the plicatas, at least, the French ones are very distinctive, the best being, in this order, FLORENTINE, ARIANE, and ATHALA. There were, of course, many newer named American varieties in his garden, and I noticed particularly striking clumps of GOLDEN MAJESTY, CHRISTABEL, CITY OF LINCOLN, and BRONZINO.

Mr. Cassebeer joined me at Mr. Smith's garden and took me for a hurried trip to his own fine planting near Nyack, N. Y. One seedling of his in particular, C-27, of which RADIANT is one of the parents, looked fine. The flower is similar to RADIANT, but it is decidedly pinker and larger. He, too, was growing beautifully most of the newer French varieties, and many of them looked better here than elsewhere. JINNY SUE was better than I have ever seen it, and I am convinced that it is a much neglected variety. DEEP VELVET, SIERRA SNOW, EXCLUSIVE, WABASH, AMIGO, and COPPER CASCADE were others that looked remarkably fine here. Both at Mr. Smith's and at Mr. Cassebeer's I saw fine plantings of Mr. Smith's range of late intermediates, and all of them seemed most effective when well grown in mass.

The following day I began a hurried three-day trip into the Indiana-Illinois area and visited first the Williamsons and Paul Cook at Bluffton. Here I was particularly interested in Mr. Cook's three 1941 introductions, COPPER ROSE, MAJENICA, and CAPTAIN WELLS. The first is probably the best of the three and is very fine indeed. Several of us had singled it out last year as one of the best of the recent Cook seedlings. MAJENICA, an attractive pink blend, is quite fine, and CAPTAIN WELLS, a smooth, fine, dark red, is likewise appealing. From the same group of seedlings which I had seen for three successive years, however, I still noticed a number of others which I thought well worthy of introduction. Among these are 118-39, a fiery red bicolor; 39-39, a flaring dark red self; 106-39, a light rosy red bicolor which carries well and makes a fine clump; and 65-39, a pink bicolor, a sister seedling of MAJENICA, but which is entirely distinct and more to my liking. Two older seedlings of his that I think should be introduced are 57-37, a very fine light pink, and 95-37, a very striking medium blue bicolor, a little coarse and narrow at the haft but with clean, distinct color, very striking in a group. I also liked again 53-37, a sister seedling of LANCASTER, which for three successive years I have preferred to



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*Mrs. C. G. Whiting confers with President McKee*

LANCASTER, although the latter was quite handsome and appealing in the Cook garden.

In the Williamson garden I saw a number of Cook seedlings from WABASH, some of them being amoenas, some near-amoenas, and several which were blue bicolors. Since there are so few amoenas available, one or two of these may well be worthy of introduction.

Mr. Lapham joined me at Bluffton, and I accompanied him back to Elkhart. The hot, dry season had played havoc with his planting, but in spite of this EDWARD LAPHAM was startlingly good and convinced me that it is the best red I have seen. L-8, a far larger RETTA type which showed up well in Nashville, was likewise good here, as was also a very colorful seedling, L-7. HOOISER SUNRISE, a sister seedling of L-7, had been quite fine in my own garden but was not in particularly good form here. Mr. Lapham, of course, is still pursuing real pink coloring. He has many fine pink blends which gave a splendid pink effect in the garden, and from what I have seen of his pink breeding for several years, I am convinced that sooner or later he is bound to be one of the hybridizers to give us real pinks.

Certainly there could be no more pleasant or impressive place to end an iris season than at Dave Hall's garden outside Chicago. Those who attended the 1940 meeting in Evanston and Wilmette saw many fine named varieties, five of which Mr. Hall introduced this year; and also saw, in particular, about the first half of his 1940 seedlings. This year I saw again the 1940 seedlings which I had seen last year and as many more which had bloomed after the visitors left last year. Certainly no hybridizer ever had a finer crop of seedlings in one year than those which bloomed for Mr. Hall in 1940. He held out over one hundred of them for further observation. At least 50 of these I would be delighted to grow, and I am convinced that there are at least five or six which must be named.

Mr. Hall had some splendid seedlings blooming for the first time, including many fine whites and light blues, as well as more of the apricot tones similar to **MAY DAY** and **STARDOM**. Probably the best one in the garden was 40-46, which had shown up so magnificently in Nashville and which was equally good in two clumps at Mr. Hall's this year. If my records are correct, it is from **CORONET** × **PRAIRIE SUNSET**. It seems to be a fine grower, well branched, and the color is magnificent. Another '40 seedling which I like tremendously was a big, unusually bright yellow, 40-05, which Mr. Hall has named **GOLDEN EAGLE**. This year's introductions, **THE ADMIRAL**, **INVICTUS**, **BUTTERCUP LANE**, **STARDOM**, and **SAMOVAR**, all showed up splendidly. Earlier ones of his seedlings which I still like very much indeed are 38-18, which he has named **TAPESTRY ROSE**; 38-24, a very fine smooth blue bicolor; and 38-43, a handsome, redder **SIR MICHAEL** type. **INNOVATION**, a plicata with pinkish markings, likewise looked very fine. Included in the 1940 seedlings are eight or ten splendid pink blends. Certainly two or three of these are well worthy of introduction. The ones which I liked best were 40-26, 40-24, 40-34, 40-35, and 40-87, about in that order, and of the ones with less pink in them, 40-37 and 40-07. A very fine variegata, 40-52, is about the best one in this color class that I have seen anywhere. He had a fine crop of yellow plicata seedlings ranging from lightly marked to very heavily marked ones; 40-99 was a very fine apricot seedling which I liked as well as **STARDOM** or any of the others. Of the '41 seedlings, 41-02 and 41-26 were the two finest ones in the apricot range; 41-30 was an interesting flaring blue-white, and 41-33 and 41-37 were very fine yellows from **INVICTUS**, being less orange and much brighter yellow than

this named variety. In spite of a poor season, Mr. Hall's things, as usual, were beautifully grown. For several years he has had remarkably fine seedlings, but hasn't quite seemed to click with a real super iris. This year it certainly seems that in 40-46 his super iris has really arrived, because I certainly saw no better iris, named or numbered, during the entire season.

The following recent introductions and seedlings, not mentioned in the foregoing text, seem to merit particular mention as I saw them bloom during this rather poor season :

ALASKA (Schreiner). A very fine white intermediate. Two other Schreiner intermediates introduced this year, BLACK HAWK and RUBY GLOW, are equally outstanding.

ALASTOR (Spender). Schreiner did us a favor when he introduced this colorful deep pink to American gardens.

ANNA GAGE (Gage). I like this red bicolor very much.

ARCTIC (Kleinsorge). A larger and coarser MARY E. NICHOLLS type; quite handsome and fine.

ARETHUSA (Gage). No more striking clump in my garden—but like many other fine ones, grand in cool weather but collapses too quickly in hot sun.

BLACK VALOR (Nicholls). Not very tall in my garden but a glistening deep blue which is well worth while.

BROWN THRASHER (Kirkland). Seen two successive years in Nashville, this has gorgeous color but has appeared only on short stalks. If it will grow up, it will rate as the Chancellor's best iris.

CALIFORNIA PEACH (Salbach). Another grand one from Salbach; a unique and most attractive blend.

CLARET VELVET (Weed). Very smooth and fine, although seen only on a short stalk.

COPPER CASCADE (Kleinsorge). I like this more each year and feel that it has not had the recognition it so well deserves.

CORITICA (H. Sass). I don't like yellow plicatas too heavily marked; this is lightly but neatly marked and I'd rank it at the top of the yellow plicatas.

DAYBREAK (Kleinsorge). I saw the three 1941 Kleinsorge introductions on short stalks only. I liked DAYBREAK, a pink blend of fine form, best of the lot, but I thought the other two, FORTUNE and GRAND CANYON, distinctive and well worth while.

DEEP VELVET (Salbach). There's no richer or better dark iris, and recognition for its merit has come all too slow.

NED LE FEVRE (Lapham). Most unusual in color and looks promising.

ELSA SASS (H. Sass). Has never grown well in Roanoke, but elsewhere has been a most unique and appealing yellow.

FLORA CAMPBELL (Hill). Fine bright red color and an appealing red blend.

FLORA ZENOR (J. Sass 40-318). This isn't the last word in pinks, but it is an indication that they are on their way. A neat fine peach pink flower with a deep tangerine beard.

GILT EDGE (Whiting). A fine iris but not as fine as GOLDEN FLEECE, which it resembles.

GLEN ELLEN (Connell). For a brownish toned iris, this has amazing carrying quality; it is a top-notch iris.

GOLDEN FLEECE (J. Sass). This really is "Jake's Masterpiece," and is one of the richest, brightest, and finest of all iris.

GOLDEN GLOW (Glutzbeck). With all the commotion over SPUN GOLD, this moderate-priced yellow should not be forgotten; it is, perhaps, not perfect in form, but it has fine color, is a grand grower, and makes a swell garden clump.

GOLDEN MADONNA (Essig). Being partial to light yellows and particularly to two-toned ones, I like this a lot.

GOLDEN MAJESTY (Salbach). Grows beautifully, increases unbelievably, and is a grand all-around deep yellow.

GOLDEN SPIKE (Whiting). Close behind SPUN GOLD in the race for yellow honors; quite different in color and garden effect and a thoroughly grand iris.

ICY BLUE (Weed). The best iris I've seen from Weed; a most distinct and appealing light blue of very flaring form.

INSPIRATION (Stevens). Rather handsome, but a little large for my taste; if you like the big ones, get this!

LUCERNE (Salbach). Introduced in a cheap group, but a striking and useful medium blue.

MELITZA (Nesmith). Nothing I saw this year impressed me more. A year ago, on a poorly grown plant, it seemed notable only for its unique tangerine beard. This year, at Mrs. Blake's and in my own garden, it was fine in every particular, color, branching, vigor of growth, etc., and it must go down as one of the most distinctive and appealing iris in several years.

MIRABELLE (Whiting). When a new hybridizer can begin with GOLDEN SPIKE and follow this the next year with MIRABELLE, look out for more fine things; this is a lovely blend with amazingly fine substance.

MOUNTAIN SKY (Milliken). We liked this finely formed pale blue as a seedling at Pasadena in 1939; in the East this year, it looked even better.

NICHOLLS 24498. A very fine lightly marked pale yellow plicata.

NICOLE LASSAILLY (Cayeux). A near-amoena which seemed coarse at first but which improved greatly on acquaintance; a distinctive addition.

NOEL (White). Very finely formed creamy white with most remarkable substance.

OLD PARCHMENT (Kleinsorge). I like this better each time I see it; there's no other iris quite like it.

Oncobreds. Mr. White's OYEZ, NELSON OF HILLY, and SOME LOVE were all fine again; two taller ones, as yet un-introduced, PRESENT and FAR CROSS, were very striking. All these oncobreds seem to grow well in the East.

Pattison blue seedling. A finely finished, ruffled pale lavender-blue seedling, most impressive in Mrs. Blake's garden.

PERSIAN PRINCE (H. Sass). This is 17-37; I've been clamoring for its introduction for three years; it is a top-notch variegata.

PORTLAND (Kleinsorge). Nobody seems to get excited over this, but it makes as fine and colorful a mass as I've ever had in the garden.

PRAIRIE SUNSET (H. Sass). It never seems quite as fine elsewhere as it was two different years in the Sass gardens, but, nevertheless, its color is unsurpassed.

RED GLEAM (Lapham). Short nearly everywhere in this dry season, but very fine in color and second only to EDWARD LAPHAM among the really "red" reds.

RED VALOR (Nicholls). Not the reddest of the reds, but just about the handsomest.

SALAR (de Forest). Floriferous and unique in color; I liked it tremendously, although not all garden visitors agreed with me.

SEA BLUE (Whiting). Good medium blues are scarce; this ranks with the best.

SNOW VELVET (H. Sass). A fine creamy white, rather an improved BRIDAL VEIL with no erratic tendencies.

SONNY BOY (Kirkland). A very, very satisfactory and pleasing iris.

SPUN GOLD (Glutzbeck). I was a long time getting to see this iris, but finally having seen it in three gardens this year, I am convinced that it is the best all-around yellow self so far introduced.

STARDOM (Hall). Probably the best Hall introduction to date, and thoroughly fine.

STORM KING (Nicholls). One of the best of all dark iris and one of the best of Colonel Nicholls' many recent good ones.

SUNSPOT (Grant). If you don't like the white spot on the falls, you'll call it simply another yellow; if the white spot appeals to you as distinctive, you'll consider it one of Grant's very best.

TREASURE TROVE (Sturtevant). The finest, most colorful table iris I've seen and a most valuable addition.

WAKARUSA (Lapham). As colorful a clump as you could hope to see.

## PACIFIC COAST IRIS SURVEY

HAROLD I. JOHNSON

■ SINCE THE quantity of iris bloom in Central California gardens was curtailed by an extremely wet, mild winter, it was a good year to visit Southern California and Oregon iris gardens, where iris growing conditions were somewhat better.

In Southern California, I was considerably impressed with the high quality of bloom in Mr. White's garden in Redlands. Although most of his onco hybrids were past blooming, and I did not see the really remarkable OYEZ and SOME LOVE until I reached Dr. Kleinsorge's garden in Oregon, Mr. White's newer yellows, whites, and blues constitute a treasure chest from which we will obtain fine new iris for years to come. I particularly liked the unusual blue of SPRING ARIA, which, although it is not a large flower, should be excellent for garden effect. Here, also, were blooming Mr. Smith's YELLOW JEWEL and DIANA. The former seems to lack the necessary substance and yellow coloring matter to withstand California sunshine, but DIANA proved to be quite satisfactory. There were remnants of bloom on NELSON OF HILLY, SUSAN OF HILLY, and TOP HILLY, but I do believe that these hybrids generally do their best under climatic conditions such as are available in Oregon. Someone like Dr. Kleinsorge should assist in the work on this group, because I am now convinced that out of this work, so ably started and intelligently continued by Mr. White, will come the iris of the future. While discussing onco hybrids I should not fail to mention an extraordinary seedling which bloomed in Mr. Salbach's garden in Berkeley. A descendant, I believe, of WILLIAM MOHR, it was nearly as tall as ORMOHR, with bluish white standards and taffy colored falls.

Although the Milliken Gardens were in the process of being moved from Altadena to Arcadia, there were many blooms in the new location, and the garden when completed will be indeed a fine sight. Noteworthy new iris were TOUCH O'BLUE and FORT KNOX, a stunning huge yellow with flaring falls which should be the definitive variety in this color class. Other fine iris introduced

by Milliken, and which should have been included in my last year's list of good doers in California, are BLUE SPIRE, MOUNT CLOUD, and Mr. White's FAIR ENOUGH and EARLY MASS. Of these, FAIR ENOUGH I believe to be the most valuable to Californians because it blooms considerably before SAN GABRIEL.

Berkeley gardens were not at their best because of the undue rainfall, but the general display of iris at the Salbach gardens was still the best to be found on the Pacific Coast. Professor Mitchell's garden contained a number of new plicata seedlings, and he hopes to write an article for the BULLETIN in the near future on the subject of plicatas. As novel and interesting as the Sass' yellow plicatas are, they have not, as was truly said about SAN FRANCISCO and LOS ANGELES, closed the endeavors in this direction. Professor Mitchell's promised article should, therefore, be of help in making further progress with this group.

Iris flower stalks were considerably more profuse in Oregon than in California. In a state where iris do so well, it is surprising to see along the roadsides and in small gardens so many insignificant iris of ancient vintage. If some day it should become stylish to collect old iris, like some rosarians are doing with old-time roses, I am sure Oregon will provide many desirable specimens. The western part of the state is really one of the finest flower-growing locations in the world. Its climate is much like that of England, and the iris have a depth of color which makes many of them unrecognizable to one used to their California versions. PICARDY, for instance, was a brilliant variegata, whereas in California it assumes a muddy appearance; and I did not recognize Professor Mitchell's CHARM. Since such excellent conditions prevail, all gardeners in Oregon should use the newer iris extensively. Furthermore, iris there seem to bloom considerably before and not contemporaneously with the rose season, as they do in many parts of California.

Dr. Kleinsorge is, of course, the dean of Oregon iris growers. He has worked particularly for blends, and his newer seedlings along this line are superbly branched, with sturdy stalks, fine height, and wide-hafted falls. Outstanding among his seedlings was a tall variegata with very dark, unmarked falls, and golden standards, having a wire-edge of brownish red. Also of great interest was a smooth, torch-like, golden blend with a bluish splash of color on the falls. Among his latest introduced varieties, ARCTIC proved

to be a much larger NATIVIDAD with somewhat more yellow at the heart of the flower; and BIRCHBARK was one of the purest toned whites it has been my pleasure to see.

Other iris deserving comment and seen in various places in my travels were COPPER FRILLS, a striking addition to the group consisting of GOLDEN LIGHT, No-WE-TA and the like; GOLDEN FLEECE, which, though it probably will never be a great iris in California, certainly is a worthwhile introduction; WAVERLY, a large, distinct blue with flaring falls; IDA ANVALARY and CLINTON SYLVESTER, both interesting, although not large plicatas; and ICY BLUE, one of Weed's originations, and certainly the largest iris with good substance I have ever seen.

Three Cayeux introductions of 1939 bloomed in my own garden for the first time this year. PERSEPOLIS was of interest because of its wide haft and almost circular falls of velvety purplish red; AMENOPHIS was a bit too much like CADETOU, but had an exceptionally wide margin of contrasting color on the falls. It proved to be a prolific bloomer. RAMUNTCHO was the best of the lot—a variegata with gold standards and dark red falls without too many haft-markings.

The necessity of the long trek along the Pacific Coast, except for the purpose of observing new seedling developments, could, it seems, be avoided by having a garden rather more centrally located where new introductions could be examined. I found the Weed gardens in Beaverton, Ore., to approximate most closely this idea of a trial garden, but it is 800 miles from San Francisco and 1,250 miles from Los Angeles. Furthermore, good performance in Oregon does not necessarily mean good performance in California. A garden along this order in California would, I believe, be of great value both to eastern and western growers.

Happily, in my journeys I visited Mrs. Pollock's beautiful garden in Sacramento, and I found that she is fully prepared and equipped to start and to maintain an iris display and trial garden. Such an enterprise would not be commercial in any respect. I might say in this connection that Mrs. Pollock for some time has maintained something in the nature of a trial garden for many new Sass and Whiting introductions. Ten acres on Mr. Pollock's ranch, a few minutes ride south of Sacramento, are available for this purpose, and she and I spent some time looking over the various sites on which iris could be planted to the best advantage. One location,

bordered by large clumps of trees, proved particularly effective. When Mrs. Pollock has landscaped the site and it is ready for iris plantings, which, she indicated, would be this year, I am hopeful that all growers will cooperate with her to make this garden a worthwhile show place and testing ground for iris.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON

VIRGINIA F. CLUTTON

■ "BLACKBERRY WINTER" they call it in Nashville, the pleasantly cool spell that customarily welcomes the blooming of the blackberries, and did this year. As iris time happily coincided with blackberry blooming this year, the A.I.S. had ideal days for visiting Nashville's beautiful and extensive gardens. Others, no doubt, will describe these lovely gardens and tell of the marvelous hospitality extended by our gracious hosts; my intention is but to jot down a few impressions of the iris that highlighted the gorgeous display spread before us.

Let us first visit Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wills' delightful garden. Here we find SPUN GOLD, the loveliest iris I saw in all Nashville, with BROWN THRASHER a close second. But BROWN THRASHER was in Mr. and Mrs. Tom Williams' garden, so we will leave its description until a little later. The outstanding quality of SPUN GOLD was its lovely smoothness, but, of course, it was rich in deep velvety yellow color and beautiful in form. A dry season, we were told, made many iris stalks lower and less well branched than is normally the case, and SPUN GOLD apparently suffered in these respects, but was lovely none the less and will doubtless be even better another year.

ARCTIC was a new white to me, and a very charming one with its yellow haft edges and beard and the delicate yellow suffusion in the standards. Its tall, unusually well branched stalk bore three open flowers nicely spaced and poised and beautifully formed. This iris really had everything.

DEEP VELVET stood nearby, its great violet blooms with their

rich brown hafts held well aloft. Its large, beautifully formed flowers of rich, dark coloring carried surprisingly well in the garden. It was a standout.

Among whites, beautiful MOUNT WASHINGTON, unfortunately not reliably hardy in Illinois, here was tall and lovely, bearing its large, well formed flowers above many others. CAROLINE BURR, with its yellow reticulations and nice form, pleased me here and again in Mr. and Mrs. Geddes Douglas' garden, where I thought I preferred it to STELLA POLARIS nearby, although both these whites were pleasing. SNOW FLURRY, BRIDAL VEIL, MATTERHORN, and WHITE PRINCE with its delicate yellow edging and orange beard were among the better known nice whites.

Second only to SPUN GOLD, in my eyes, was GOLDEN MAJESTY among the deep yellows and FAIR ELAINE among the paler ones. TRIPYCH, with a slightly mustardy color, pleasing as a variation from the golden tones, was tall and stately, while DRAP D'OR, also slightly mustardy in tone and neither very tall nor very large, was charming with its trim form, conic standards, and flaring falls, a self with practically no reticulation, an appealing iris in the garden and good for cutting, too, I believe.

GLEN ELLEN, coffee-and-cream color with a deeper flush on the falls and with pleasing form, was very nice here, and again in its home garden, Dauntless Hill, where Mr. Connell had it modestly planted on a side path.

GARDEN FLAME, more purple than I had expected, was large and nicely formed. CHARLOTTE MILLET, violet of an unusual and attractive shade, was charming, and ROYAL COMMAND, another violet but larger, velvety, and of a beautiful soft deep shade, with an orange beard, satisfied the eye. PRINCE OF ORANGE was really almost orange in color, though a slightly brassy orange, and a brown flush ornamented the falls. It had medium-sized blooms and delightful coloring.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Williams' gardens spread so broadly and were filled with so many fine varieties that I no doubt missed many in the time at my disposal, but of all those that I did see, BROWN THRASHER was tops. It was a bit lighter in color than the bird for which it is named, and had a golden glint in its velvety falls that was unique and lovely. The only criticism that I heard anyone make was that the stem was too short. Indeed, the flower was blooming down among its leaves, with two bloom stalks coming from one rhizome,

so no doubt when growing normally the stem would be taller. The color is most beautiful.

SPOTLIGHT, a seedling of Mr. Williams', seemed to be slightly deeper toned and taller than GOLDEN HIND. It is not a large flower, but is very bright and had widely flaring falls, so attractive in a plant of medium height.

In all the gardens, members were almost standing in line to photograph the newest and most choice iris; this person would be begged to hold a dark coat as background for light-colored iris; that one to hold back an obstructing leaf, while shutters clicked. Every make of camera must have been there, and in almost constant use. Some of us felt that to outsiders we must have seemed to be members of the American Iris Society and Camera Club!

It was in the charming hillside garden of Mr. and Mrs. Geddes Douglas that we found many of the newer varieties and some interesting seedlings. Number 41-4, a blue of medium depth, well formed and excellently branched, was perhaps the best of those open at the time. SNOWDROP, Mr. Douglas' charmingly round and very white little iris, was extremely pleasing. GREAT LAKES and GOLDEN MAJESTY both showed that they well deserve all the praises heaped upon them. MELITZA here was palest pink, too pale for good garden effect, I thought, but in Mrs. Washington's seedling field, our next stop, a seedling of MELITZA showed somewhat deeper coloring of similar tone. The color was very nice in the opening flower we watched, standing in a group about it.

At the end of the meeting, we regretfully said good-bye to our charming Nashville hosts and started for home via the Smokies, stopping at Mr. and Mrs. Clint McDade's garden in Chattanooga for a quick glimpse of their lovely old boxwood and equally lovely new iris. Many varieties were there, but new to me was Mr. Kleinsorge's DAYBREAK, evidently newly named, for its number, 270, was also on the label. I liked this flower with its pinky-coppery coloring and yellow haft, with its ruffled standards and nice form. It was not tall, but it was very pleasing.

NOONDAY SKY was a soft pale blue self with good form and good branching. SCHOONER, Mr. McDade's white that won a First Class Certificate in the Rome trials in 1940, was growing here in a great clump. It was ivory white with yellow haft edge and deeper beard, tall and well formed.

After a most delightful visit to the Smokies, we turned toward

home, stopping in Cincinnati to see Dr. and Mrs. Ayres' garden. Here we were too early for any but the most scattered bloom. A gay clump of **CHEERIO** fluttered a welcome, and a coffee-and-cream seedling caught my eye. Almost a self, it has a deeper flush on the falls and a metallic glint. Of medium size and height, it has a beautiful form and great charm.

A brief visit to Mrs. Silas Waters' garden found only a few varieties open here, too. **SNOW FLURRY** was lovely; **MATTERHORN**, quite creamy in the almost-dark of evening; **GOLDEN HIND**, well grown; and two charming, full-flowered clumps of **SAN FRANCISCO**, very beautiful. **MANAVU** was new to me, with its creamy standards and deeper falls flushed yellow, especially on the haft. Its deep orange beard was interesting, very trim and clear-cut to a sharp point, much more definite than one usually finds.

And so home again—to start the season all over once more for here only **SNOW MAIDEN** was yet in bloom.

I visited Dr. Lapham's garden in Elkhart, Ind. (always a week or so earlier than those in this vicinity), and found that in its home garden **RED GLEAM**'s soft red velvet falls really do show a gleam. Growing in a group of some of our reddest iris, it showed itself to be really redder than any—and made some of them look quite purple. Looking at it away from the others, one is sometimes tempted to think that this iris isn't redder than another, but seen side by side, it really is. It is even just the least bid redder than the newer **EDWARD LAPHAM**, but the latter is a smoother flower, almost a self, although the velvet makes the falls a bit deeper. It is possibly a bit deeper in tone and has a very clean haft, showing practically no reticulation. The velvet is a less heavy one than **RED GLEAM**'s and both plants were about 28 inches tall.

**WAKARUSA** is one of those blends that cannot possibly be adequately described. Sufficient to say that there are touches of rose and yellow, of tan and lavender, all so skillfully superimposed and blended that from a distance one sees a vivid patch of pinkish orangy-copper. One might wish that the flowers bunched a bit less, but the coloring is delightful.

Here, too, I had my first glimpse of a truly lovely pink—Mr. Loomis' **T Q 70**. This is a further development of his **SEASHELL**, **S Q 70**, and others of that group, and is far, far better than any other of them that I have seen. The soft seashell color is very similar, it seems, in many of them, and here, in addition, is an iris of greater

size than I've seen before (not huge, but sufficiently large) and of very pleasing form, ample substance, and with freedom from fading. During my visit, a flower opened, and this fresh bloom was just the color of one which I was told had been open for two—or was it three?—days. It was quite the prettiest and best pink I saw this spring.

In Mr. Orville Fay's garden in Wilmette, Ill., his lovely LADY NAOMI was as beautiful this year as it was last, and I noted an equally lovely sister seedling—a blue, rather light in color and with excellent qualities. There were many nice whites, one especially, 41-2, that bore just a bit of cool greenish yellow on the haft, similar to lemon ice in color.

Of Mr. Hall's newest seedlings, the one that pleased me most was number 41-45, a large upstanding iris with slightly ruffled standards and spreading falls, pleasing form and ample substance. The color was delicate and charming, but difficult to describe. Just imagine a cup of cream into which is poured a little tea, just enough to tint it faintly with the most delicate tinge of brown. It has a luscious color, very delicate, yet with remarkable carrying power. Hall's 41-24 was a large white with good form, substance, and branching, and 40-74 was a pleasing light lilac-pink with yellow haft, practically a self.

SPRING CHIMES has one of those new orangy-brown colors so difficult to describe, a large flower, almost a self, and both here and in Nashville showing the need of a bit more substance and of better branching. GOLDEN EAGLE, a softened yellow, as though a bit of tan coloring were added, is tall and bears very large flowers with drooping falls. This combination causes them to overlap one another considerably, and more substance would improve them. INNOVATION and several other plicatas yet under number were pleasing.

In my own garden, Dr. Ayres' LA LORRAINE spread its blended falls of tan, lavender, and touches of rose, giving a coppery pink effect which from a little distance almost matched the color of the standards. BLACK VALOR seemed to please everyone who visited the garden, as well it might with its very dark blue velvety blooms, fine form and firm substance. A few more inches of height would make it a commanding iris. MATULA, too, was very well liked, its charming soft rosy effect appealing to almost everyone.

## THE 1941 SEASON IN RETROSPECT

ETHEL ANSON S. PECKHAM

■ IT IS always hard to write about flowers after they are done blooming. When they are in bloom, one easily discusses them with enthusiasts and, in the give and take of such a discussion, fixes the new things, seen for the first time, in the memory; but writing about them when they are not actually before the eyes is a different matter. The iris season this year was peculiar to say the least. Here, in the mountains, we had very hot weather early, followed by a sickening drop in temperature and then continuous freezes that stunted stems and even discouraged some varieties from blooming at all. Some plants just stopped growing and stood still for several weeks; intermediates bloomed with the later tall bearded, early tall bearded flowered very late, and late ones, early. A judge could tell little about varieties viewed for the first time. Queer conditions appeared to be general, and I feel that all comments for this year should be considered as merely tentative.

Looking at my own iris journeys in a general way, one thing stands out—that few iris gardens have a really good selection of the dwarfs, early, medium and late intermediates, as well as the tall bearded kinds. One can understand a person not growing beardless and other groups if the space is limited, but too few gardeners who are interested in iris have any except the giants. Now, I think a garden is a garden whether or not it belongs to an iris fancier, and I want to see iris in it in suitable positions and of suitable types. Why is it that dwarfs are so neglected? Many dealers tell you it does not pay to list or grow them because nobody buys them. I think a good deal of the neglect is due to the habit of visiting the dealers' and specialists' gardens only during the height of the tall bearded season. The main public never sees dwarfs and early intermediates in bloom and does not realize what good value they are in the garden effect. Even short and small varieties that flower in mid-season are overlooked because they are not correctly planted to show their garden value.

In judging this type of plant, the flowers must be in proportion to the height of stalk and the branching of a style to show off the blooms. In a discussion of the desirable qualities for iris, it was said



*Kodachrome by F. W. Cassebeer*

*Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Kellogg, Miss McKnight, and Mrs. Peckham and son at the Kellogg's, North Granby, Conn.*

that color is the most important thing. It is one of the most important qualities, but we have advanced beyond that point. Color must be combined with the substance necessary to keep our gardens looking well, and what profit all this if the varieties are not good growers? Proportion is needed—the very tall stem with small flowers crowded to the top and a long gap above the tops of the foliage where the design explodes, will never please the discerning eye. Mr. Sass' long-legged pink colt will never look anything like a good iris to me. It is a baby giraffe, and TITMOUSE is a table iris after one cuts off a goodly piece of the stems before putting it in water; in the garden it is a little horror, while PEWEE is a good table iris, filling the bill in each qualification. The dwarf HONEY looks like a cretin although the color is delightful and the substance and shape very good, but I cannot help thinking of "Ghenomes," as a boy I know calls them, the sort one sees that are made of cement and metal, painted crude colors, and dotted round the gardens of the misguided. Now TRINKET is a good dwarf and answers my demands in every respect for that group of iris.

It is a pleasure to go into a breeder's garden and find him or her striving for something other than these whales of flowers. One may discover splendid large seedlings and at the same time see the results of work with other groups. This shows a more rounded personality on the part of the breeder and perhaps a greater love of the genus *iris*. Such a breeder is Miss Sturtevant. One realizes there is something worth while going on in her garden, and even if nowadays the results are slower than heretofore, when the finished product appears, it counts for something that belongs to a better part of the whole in the art of breeding. I saw in her garden this year a small *iris*, TREASURE TROVE (and how prettily named), that is a brilliant, clear, bronzy gold, which is an asset for the general gardener as well as for the *iris* specialist. What is more, I saw several seedlings of charming little rock-garden subjects that were almost fairylike in their grace and perfection of smallness while they retained all the qualities we ask for in the largest of our new triumphs. Among these was a pink and white reversed bicolor that I coveted. The flowers were not more than an inch-and-a-half spread in either direction. Miss Sturtevant also had some nice orange-yellow seedlings and a good velvety red-brown among large varieties, and I liked very much the deep yellow marked No. 1-1941.

The *iris* dealer has a difficult problem in his plantings for he needs quantities of some varieties, and there always is the necessity of keeping them separated with enough clear space of some sort so there will be no chance of mixture and the wrong plants being sent out. Also, he needs to grow his plants in the best way to save labor in keeping down grass and weeds as labor charges cut very materially into profits. The addition of other plants to set off the *iris* is an expense which is solved by also selling plants that combine with them. Where he has only *iris*, his only resort is to arrange the colors and heights to enhance each other. Bare earth showing between plants is a great handicap, especially in the case of light blends, pale yellows, and pinks and dull bronzes. The grass path overcomes much, and in his garden, Mr. Jesse Wills has an excellent system of having separate beds for a variety or for a group of about three varieties set around the edge of the lawn before a background of shrubs or wall. I have never seen separate varieties shown to better advantage than in this Nashville garden, and the simplicity of the whole design is very fine. One could see also how well it would look out of *iris* season with the groups of

foliage so placed as to contrast with other forms and breaking up the monotony of the shape scheme of the whole. This style of gardening just will not work where economy of labor is essential.

Another good plan was that of Mr. Geddes Douglas' garden, where his beds were long and narrow on the side of a hill dotted with fruit trees. These terraces, while leading from the house, were cut off from it by a bit of garden with rock and other plants that carried the season on. Judging from pictures seen, I imagine the terrace garden of Countess Senni is not unlike this one. At Mr. Douglas', I saw a nice greenish yellow, PHOEBE. The flower was waved and clear and clean, the only criticism being crowding on the stem. There was also a tall, slightly ruffled blue under number 41-4 that was very good, and number 41-13, a white on PURISSIMA style, with a broad flare and handsome, wavy flower. These, I think, were his own seedlings.

Mr. Thomas Williams' grass paths, hedges, and lovely large trees and shrubs are a good setting for massive expanses of handsome varieties. There was a good seedling here, too, a brown-red with velvety flowers of strong substance. Here, also, was STARWOOD, the product of the tiny daughter, Peggy, who assured me she carefully chose the parents herself. STARWOOD is a nice, pale yellow, almost as pretty as the originator (who is not yellow but has golden locks), and I think we will hear from this iris some day.

Mr. Fishburn has a different system in that he has many small, secluded gardens with winding ways leading to them. Each gains by the wind-break hedge or wall background and bit of greensward in the center, with some accent in the way of a pool or garden ornament cleverly set. There are endless sorts of iris and plants here, well selected, well planted, well grown. It is a most intriguing garden with a good view that always helps in and out of season.

Mr. McKee, it appears to me, has made as much intelligent use of a small plot of ground that evidently had few natural advantages when he obtained it as anyone could. Such a small garden, given over to an enthusiast in one flower, might easily be very uninteresting. How he manages to conduct the raising of seedlings and maintaining an attractive garden is quite amazing. I was lucky enough to see a perfectly charming new seedling, number 41-90, a yellow reversed bitone with a clear bright yellow border on the falls and a yellow haft. The beard is white, tipped yellow; the substance, good; the branching, excellent; the habit, entirely good. Flowers

are of medium size with rounded parts, and length of stem is satisfactory. I consider this one of the few outstanding things I saw this summer, and many people will pass it by because it is not big as a bushel basket or a sea lion with whiskers!

Another good small iris, or rather medium small in height, is BROWN BONNET, which was showing well in Mr. Gage's garden and at the Boston show. This has a dark, velvety fall and buff standards and has quality written all over it.

However, there are some wonderful big ones, too, and PRAIRIE SUNSET is one of the best. So, too, is a new white of Dr. Graves', named FRANCONIA, which took an H.C. at the Boston show. This is large, floriferous, beautifully shaped and still a descendant of GUDRUN. (The latter flower is not properly pronounced "good run," either. The lady was the sister of Gunther and the second wife of Siegfried after he got rid of Brunhilde, and one calls it "Goooodroooon!") Dr. Graves had another beauty in an exquisite pale, frosty blue, large with a wide-spreading flower lasting several days, and splendidly weather resistant. I saw this at Mrs. Nesmith's where there was good opportunity to study it. This, I hear, is to be called AND THOU, but it does not need its "Jug of Wine" to set it off. Dr. Graves also had a seedling on the order of GOLDEN FLEECE, but much better, for it was a neater flower with smoother finish and a definite white place in the middle of the falls, not a streak. The extreme fringiness of the edges of the parts of GOLDEN FLEECE is a detriment in my opinion. He had some excellent yellows and he certainly knows how to grow plants. He had a very high percentage of bloom on first-year seedlings and quite the best stand I saw anywhere. I suspect the reason for the quick bloom is the heavy and continuous snow that remains late into spring. We had this blessing this year with consequent plentiful bloom on newly set babies. Transplanting them when tiny is another factor, and everywhere I went the wise breeder was hurrying to get his out.

Of course, the place to study many new iris is at Mrs. Nesmith's. There I saw a Carpenter seedling, number 140, a very late mauve-lavender that took my eye. POT OF GOLD was a lovely deep yellow among the shorter ones, while GOLDEN HIND still holds its own as an excellent deep yellow of great character. GOLDEN MAJESTY easily proved the best all-around garden yellow. SPUN GOLD is spectacular, but it remains to be proved whether it will be as satisfactory in the long run as GOLDEN MAJESTY.

While speaking of yellows, Mr. Kenneth Smith has been very successful with these. His YELLOW JEWEL improved considerably on further acquaintance, and he has a great many seedlings coming on, some pale and some dark. I was much taken with a pale one, K 40, with a good flaring shape, lots of substance, and very pretty branching habit. Mr. Smith is another who makes plants grow and bloom in a remarkable way, such size and height! He has red clay soil which resembles that which grows such good tobacco and peaches down South, but his success must be due to the way he handles it. He believes in planting his seedlings a good distance apart, far farther than most people do, and leaving them for a while to develop good clumps without dividing.

The surroundings of a garden, or even of a nursery, are important. In this latter line, nowhere is a better example than the Kellogg's new place at North Granby, Conn. Here's a background of tree-covered and rocky hillsides with rolling sweeps of ground, making what is just a nursery a very effective thing to behold. Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg have used much skill and good sense in the planning of their paths and shapes of beds. Bloom was splendid for plants so recently moved. It was here we saw and fell in love with STAINED GLASS. I learned something, though—that no matter how handsome an iris is, some sorts give one indigestion when seen in great quantity. Thus SHAH JEHAN, a beauty in a small clump properly placed, becomes confusing and queer *en masse*. The Kelloggs have their large and dazzling seedling bed where it makes a delightful foreground when seen from the quaint old farmhouse, with blue hills behind and a large apple tree for shade to sit under while perusing one's notes.

My son Anson, who is now on the high seas, had some really good dark blue seedlings, and he also has an amoena I feel is worth while. It is of medium height, and the falls are more red-purple than WABASH. He has named it ROUNDDEL. Few judges come our way, so I wish to take this opportunity to invite members and judges to come next year at the end of May and early June before the Boston meeting, for I think they will enjoy a visit to Mr. Clarence McK. Lewis' very fine garden with its great collections of rare plants, while we should be able to show a good many good iris and some nice seedlings.

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## LADY PARAMOUNT GIVES A PARTY

LENA M. LOTHROP

■ CALIFORNIA GOLD had been discovered. LUCRE was abundant, so LADY PARAMOUNT, who was noted for her CHARM, said, "I will invite my friends, the WESTLANDER (s) to a FIESTA. It will be like a CALIFORNIA TREK."

She HERSELF sent the invitations to SACRAMENTO, ALAMEDA, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN DIEGO, SANTA BARBARA, SAN GABRIEL, LOS ANGELES, CORONADO, MONTEREY. In all the WESTWAYS went invitations to come OVER HERE for the FIESTA.

The hoary CONQUISTADOR, the pompous EL CAPITAN, and the decrepit DON QUIXOTE were invited; the lovely IRMA POLLOCK and the prim and FAIR ELAINE, and some MOHR, WILLIAM and FRIEDA with many others were bidden to the FIESTA—even the EX PRESIDENT accompanied by the SHERIFFA. No PERSUASION was necessary; their hearts went PITTY PAT at the GOOD TIDINGS. All were RADIANT at the thought of the HAPPY DAYS to come.

As they journeyed a SNOW FLURRY and SPARKLING FROST were encountered then the SUNBURST, and they were OVER HERE.

LADY PARAMOUNT and her KINSMAN gave them a warm WELCOME. "I WELCOME you all," she said, and turning to the FAIR ELAINE, added "ESPECIALLY YOU." FAIR ELAINE, being young ANSWER(ed) flippantly, "OYEZ?", but to the others recited in unison, "DEAR ME, we are ENCHANTED to be PRESENT." Then LADY PARAMOUNT poured for them the WINE OF SHIRAZ.

Those who had a SWEET ALIBI arrived ANOTHER DAY.

Of children who came from TOPHILLY were TUESDAY'S CHILD and PRINCELING, and the oncos (uncles) brought the little SUSAN OF HILLY and NELSON OF HILLY with SPRING SECRETARY in attendance to Ridgway them, count their chromosomes, and measure their vitamin B. SPOT was there, but he was not allowed in the house.

With others from MOUNT CLOUD came the gay SPANISH CAVALIER and the dignified GRAND MARSHALL in all their REGALIA. Their arrival was marked by considerable ELAN. RED FLARE(s) were shot and the ROYAL SALUTE given.

CHINA MAID and CHINA BOY were PRESENT, INCOGNITO, being afraid of JINJANG.

One of the guests wore a BLUE GOWN of the shade of BLUE CLAY trimmed with GOLD LACE, and on her TAFFY colored hair rested a little hat with a TOUCH o' BLUE.

Before BEDTIME the HILLSIDE SHOW was given ; FARMERETTE performed the SPRING DANCE and BROWN BETTY sang the SPRING ARIA.

It was YOUNG APRIL ; great panicles of WISTARIA hung from lattice and trees ; CHINA ROSE(s) were growing in neat beds ; ALTA ROSA was banked against the lower balconies, which were decorated with CARVED IVORY. The ground was covered with trailing ARBUTUS, filling the air with delicious fragrance. CHINA LANTERN(s) were suspended from the branches. Someone was heard to murmur "MYOMY, how we would MISS CALIFORNIA."

FAIR ELAINE was BUZZ(ing) with the JOCUND GRAND MARSHALL. He offered her TOAST, remarking "SOME LOVE it," but as she scorned it, he put his NEON it, ejaculating "YOHOL." Just then the SPANISH CAVALIER entered, and seeing the GRAND MARSHALL on his knees, cried "AHA! Have you CHOSEN the FAIR ELAINE?" This so fussed the MARSHALL that he made a quick exit NEAR EAST. Then the SPANISH CAVALIER, seizing his opportunity, presented his GIFT of a PINK JEWEL with CARNELIAN and CHRYSOLITE, but when she did not immediately accept his GIFT he made haste to ask her to become his BRIDE ELECT and offered her a BRIDAL VEIL. Still all she would say was "ENTRE NOUS," and he did not know what that meant and he was not sure that she did. He LINGER(ed) waiting for SOMEBODY or something but finally he decided he MUSTAPH-o fended her so he left, going DUE WEST.

The THEME of the MORNING SONG was the same each day, "HAPPY DAYS are here again"; but in time, as ALWAYS, things come to an end.

It was EASTER MORN, and after EARLY MASS, the weather being FAIR ENOUGH, the WESTLANDER(s) turned their faces to the SHINING WATERS and at OPENTYDE went out on the PACIFIC. There were SPRING CLOUD(s) in the WESTERN SKIES and looking back BLUE SPIRES of SIERRA BLUE could be seen under the MOUNTAIN SKY.

When EVENING LIGHT began to fall, they came toward LANDMARK and were soon enveloped in BLUE DUSK. The LIGHT HOUSE shed its glow over the SHINING WATERS. The guests continued their home-ward way by PALE MOONLIGHT, but later it became a DARK KNIGHT.

Thus ended the EPISODE of the FIESTA, leaving only SPRING MEMORY.

## YAKIMA VALLEY IRIS, 1941

ALEXANDER MAXWELL

■ OUR SEASON was an early one this year, with rain and high winds prevailing during most of the blooming period.

On my Oregon trip, we stopped first at Mr. Weed's garden in Beaverton. There was an occasional shower of light rain during our visit, but we saw many nice things there. His ICY BLUE and CLARET VELVET were very fine and by far his best two seedlings to date. NOONDAY SKY was very impressive again this year. Other iris of note were ASHES OF ROSES, CROWN OF GOLD, BRONZE IMAGE, NYLON, MELANIE, RED VALOR, and SHEBA. A special notation is for MABEL CHADBURN, the new English yellow; if it lives up to its promise as I saw it, our new yellows will have to look to their laurels.

The following day I visited Schreiner's Garden at Silverton, where I saw WAKARUSA and MULBERRY ROSE, two of Mr. Schreiner's introductions for this year, both grand bits of color. WAKARUSA had a small plant in bloom, but MULBERRY ROSE did not have typical bloom, so they could not be rated.

At Mr. Cooley's garden, conditions were better—there was no rain, and quite a few good things were blooming. ARCTIC again was fine; PRINCE OF ORANGE, not so good as when we saw it in our garden later. This is a splendid orange-toned iris when well done.

GRAND CANYON is a wonderful thing; DAYBREAK, a grand color, but FORTUNE is the best iris of the new ones at Mr. Cooley's—its color beggars description. CAROLINE BURR, DAMERINE, MINUET, BO PEEP, ELIZABETH ANN, LATE SUN, COURS-LA-REINE, STELLA POLARIS, VIOLET SYMPHONY, all were very good here. All the older, finer iris were here, too, but these are well known to you; my intention is to tell about the ones that were new to me.

At Dr. Kleinsorge's, Mrs. Lothrop, Mr. Weed, and I agreed that three of his seedlings—numbers 300, 296-A and 301—deserved an H. C.

No. 300 is a cross of AZTEC COPPER and ORMOHR. It is a large bronzy toned flower, bright and vivid. At last the WILLIAM MOHR color is definitely upset in this one; the color is different from any other WILLIAM MOHR cross I have seen. This may be named ORMACO.

No. 296-A is the real one. In color it is like a bright new penny, with a golden glow at the heart. It had the best substance and branching I have ever seen in an iris. It may be named TOBACCO ROAD.

No. 301 is a grand, tall, well branched, deep clear yellow, as good and perhaps better than the best. I liked it better than SPUN GOLD, which I saw later.

At Yakima, SNOW FLURRY was the point of interest, but PRAIRIE SUNSET attracted everyone. BROWN BOY, ORANGE FLAME, DEEP VELVET, ALASTOR, THE DARB, ANCHORAGE, HEIRLOOM, MODESTA, Rhapsody, THELMA JEAN, PAILLASSE, CHARLOTTE MILLET, GOLDEN MADONNA, AZTEC COPPER, OLD PARCHMENT, MING YELLOW, GOLDEN MAJESTY, ELSA SASS, FLORENTINE, FLORA CAMPBELL, GOLDEN AMBER, LOUVOIS, MARY E. NICHOLLS, NARADA, BALMUNG, and RUTH POLLOCK were all tops in every way.

GOLDEN FLEECE gave a good bloom; it is wonderful.

I saw SPUN GOLD, BEVERLEY, SALAR, and LANCASTER at Roan's at Ellensburg. SPUN GOLD is a beautiful yellow; LANCASTER I liked very much; SALAR is distinct and different; BEVERLY I find a grand thing, a deeper pink than EROS, a bigger, better flower—it may bunch up a little, but it has a fine color.

So far our garden at Yakima has about 75 new iris to be looked over in 1942. We can hardly wait to see them, and we hope our Northwest iris fanciers will come and enjoy them with us. Interest in iris is increasing with us in the Valley!

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## COMMENTS FROM IOWA

CRAIG D. ELLYSON

■ THE 1941 season was very peculiar in the northeast section of Iowa, in that dry, hot weather stunted the iris as to height and size of blossom. Then, during the blooming season, strong winds and dust put even those iris of better substance to a very severe test. Our gardens in the vicinity of Black Hawk County have added trouble with the soil. Some of them have all sand; others, heavy clay, and still others, undesirable mixtures of both. With these drawbacks in mind, the A.I.S. members of this district met to compare notes on growth and performance, thinking that others in the same region might be interested in our findings, which are as follows:

AMIGO. Disappointing this year. Standards not clear.

AVONDALE. Good branching; pleasing amber-bronze of fine substance which withstands the wind. Fades.

BUCKSKIN. Excellent tan with blue haze over falls.

CALIFORNIA GOLD. Deep yellow with fine branching. Brown vein seemed less this year.

CHINA MAID. Clumped branching, rose color badly affected by weather, washed out to a pale lavender.

CITY OF LINCOLN. Excellent in every way. Branching and substance unusually good; clear yellow standards with ruffled garnet falls edged yellow.

COPPERSMITH. Very poor rosy blend; faded easily.

CROWN JEWEL. An outstanding blend with ruby cast and veining on falls.

DORE. Ruffled cream which has more yellow in falls. This iris has been beautiful in some gardens, but has spotted badly, has been even spotty in substance when the buds have opened indoors.

E. B. WILLIAMSON. Color was disappointing at first, but grew on one. Lovely "crushed strawberries-in-cream" red self. Branching substance and form of flower, just about the best.

ELKHART. 28 in. Good chestnut red; excellent substance and branching; more vivid than usual.

FAR WEST. Salmon-rose blend of poor color and substance; faded and blew.

GOLDEN HIND. The one spot where dandelion yellow is all right. This is always a good actor.

GUDRUN. Beautiful white, heavy substance, but someone should put the flowers on good branches.

JEAN CAYEAUX. Very poor in regard to color fading; branching poor also.

MARQUITA. Pleasing shape and color; standards nicely cupped in uniform cream, ruby veins on falls, branching poor.

MING YELLOW. Medium-toned yellow self, excellent substance, branching and form. Purple fleck noticed in one flower.

MADAME LOUIS AUREAU. Lovely color in plicata but too dark an effect for some. Clumped and low flowers.

MISSOURI. Poor, standards opened, muddy color and dark haft markings.

MOUNTAIN SNOW. Should be renamed "Leather Snow." Excellent substance and color; too much blue in center for some, but most thought it improved the flower. Branching was irregular.

MOONGLO. This electric blue blend was unusually fine this year; branching good; slender strong stems; flower substance good and pleasingly ruffled.

NARANJA. Very poor and floppy; brassy yellow with irregularly placed so-called orange spots.

ORMOHR. Excellent mauve with violet veins; form and substance good; branches a little short; extremely firm falls.

PAULETTE. Nice medium blue, slight rosy flush over falls; good growth and excellent branching.

ROSY WINGS. Beautiful soft light rose blend; branching poor and low flowers; disappointing effect in planting.

SANDIA. Rosy blend of self coloring and marked soft yellow in haft; good form and substance.

SIERRA BLUE. The tops for standing punishment this year. Excellent substance and branching; medium blue self, far superior to MISSOURI in blue effect.

TARANTELLA. Best of the plicatas in general appearance, branching, and shape of flower. Pure white, delicately edged pink-lavender. Those who like the heavy edging will disagree.

THE BLACK DOUGLAS. Clumped and low and very ineffective color as compared with the older BLACKAMOOR.

TIFFANY. Lovely color, but too much spotting gives it a brown effect instead of a plicata. Clumped and low.

VERT GALANT. Dusky garnet bicolor which was unusually outstanding this year in form, branching and substance.

WABASH. Short but well branched and lovely coloring. Pure white standards and pansy falls edged white. Was faded badly in several gardens by wind and dryness.

The flowering period this year was at least two to three weeks ahead of time, and there were unusual combinations of dwarf, intermediate, and tall bearded blooming together. We do not have expensive collections, but we enjoy the iris season together.

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## OBSERVED AT ROANOKE

LUCILLE REAMEY STEEDMAN

■ THE FOLLOWING observations on iris were made in three gardens in Roanoke, and all new iris were seen in Mr. Fishburn's garden.

On the whole, the season was satisfactory. Despite the drought, there was plenty of bloom from the middle of April until the last day of May. A great many thrills! New color breaks! Seeing at last many iris that one had been reading about in the BULLETIN---GOLDEN SPIKE, SPUN GOLD, GLEN ELLEN, and after a four year wait, that iris that has had all the judges looking up new adjectives, PRAIRIE SUNSET!

In the early season the outstanding iris among the tall bearded was SUNGOLD. It is a light yellow, with good branching very like its pollen parent, LADY PARAMOUNT. An occasional fleck reminds us of its Dykes parentage. It blooms with the intermediates and will be very valuable for this reason.

FAR CROSS, a very dark velvety iris with its onceo blood quite apparent, is tall but leggy. PRESENT, NELSON OF HILLY, and OYEZ are more interesting. PRESENT, with pink veinings, has a black signal spot that is not the least of its attractions. NELSON OF HILLY is a smaller PRESENT without the spot. OYEZ, with reddish brown veinings, will appeal to those on the outlook for something new to spring on judges in the flower arrangement classes at shows. An arrangement of this iris in a brown or copper container with certain shades of brown leaves could make a very interesting composition. Any iris fan who goes in for flower arrangements should certainly not overlook PRESENT, NELSON OF HILLY, and OYEZ.

OVER HERE, the darkest of the lot, is the least like the oncos, and by the same token less interesting. TOP HILLY, a nondescript white with a dark signal spot, is the least interesting of all these oncos.

Two little late intermediates—MAY GOLD and TREASURE TROVE—will be valuable both for the front of the border and for those who want the bloom for arrangements. MAY GOLD is a dainty little yellow, very bright in color and very floriferous. TREASURE TROVE, a darker yellow with a brownish edge, is a pretty iris. PRINCESS MARIGOLD, a very bright spot in the garden, can also fall in this class. Many of the tall bearded iris are leggy, and these shorter iris, planted in front of them, will serve to hide this defect.

Taking the iris up by color, some of the very finest in the garden will be found among the light and medium blues. In shape and texture, substance and ability to withstand the sun, these as a class are way ahead of the reds and blends.

ICY BLUE easily stands out as one of the best in this class. It has a substance and texture that suggests GLORIOLE; there is a frostiness on it that the sun does not fade nor burn up; and it is as trim and neat as if it had just come out of a bandbox. The falls flare nicely.

Hall's 40-33 is a fine blue, half-way between ICY BLUE and WAVERLY in shade. It has the usual strong stalks and good branching that is so characteristic of Mr. Hall's iris. BLUE RIVER is a blue iris if there ever was one. After a rain and a wind that made so many of the "aristocrats" of the garden look so bedraggled, this iris was as fresh and lovely as when it had first bloomed that morning. TWILIGHT BLUE, a curious shade, seems to have a pink overtone; yet there is no pink in this iris! BLUE DIAMOND is very floriferous, about the shade of ANITRA, although it flops just a bit in the hot sun, as does ANITRA. The nod goes to BLUE DIAMOND. ARCADIAN is a shade or so lighter than WAVERLY, and the standards open up too wide. STRATOSPHERE, a sky blue, is yet a different shade.

Two small light blues that are fine for any garden are CALLING ME and BLUE DELIGHT. The first is a shade or so lighter, but the nod goes to BLUE DELIGHT. LOVER'S NIGHT is a shade lighter than OSEOLA. It has a blistery texture that reminds one of W. R. DYKES. Could have better substance. OSEOLA is the better of the two iris.

Among the medium blues, LUCERNE is the blue of the Gulf Stream. SEA BLUE is just another blue. MISSOURI is still among the finest in this class; it always seems to have just had its face washed. NARONDA is the color of bluing in water, a palida in every respect with a deep blue color. It ruffles slightly.

In the white group, PATRICIA, SNOW FLURRY, and NOEL stand out because of their shape, substance, and texture. SNOW FLURRY was not up to par this year; it bloomed on a sick plant, but the ruffling and shape of this iris make a lovely bloom. It reminds me of GLORIOLE.

PATRICIA, a one-year plant, bloomed on a short stem here. I am told that it grows much taller and has a larger bloom. It was the whitest iris, with nice substance, and it glistened in the sun. NOEL



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*Mrs. E. C. Currier, Mrs. G. G. Pollock, Mrs. C. W. Naas, and  
Mrs. Leo B. Shippy are intently making ratings*

is everything one would want in a white iris; it has good shape, flares nicely, is trim and neat, and has good branching. I could wish that MOUNT WASHINGTON had better branching. It is a good white, although I prefer the shape of GUDRUN. Among the whites, one with the loveliest individual bloom and a texture that is something to write home about, is THE MOENCH, but it is tall, leggy, and bunches badly. The warm tones of this white have a pink tone that can't be accounted for, as is also the case of TWILIGHT BLUE, but it needs a shorter iris planted in front of it.

CAROLINE BURR is a large cream white with a green cast. It has heavy substance and all other characteristics of a good iris. It could be used in an arrangement with pale green foliage in a monochromatic color scheme. WHITE VALOR is another good white that has a velvety texture. The falls pinch slightly. ANNE MARIE BERTHIER is a pure white, the flower is a medium bloom, the yellow beard is not noticeable. As is the case with SILVER JUBILEE, the standards are equal in length to the falls.

MOUNTAIN SNOW, a cold white, has fine texture, and I like the

shape of the bloom better than that of MOUNT WASHINGTON, but still the nod goes to MOUNT WASHINGTON.

In the copper, metallic, and brown tones, Mr. Hall's 40-14 easily leads the field. It is the real copper-toned iris. I hope it is vigorous and fast-growing, so that it will soon come down into the zone of my pocketbook. It should certainly prove popular with those who like to make flower arrangements, for placed in a copper container with appropriate foliage, it is surely going to make a hit with judges of flower arrangements. It is better than SAMOVAR, although the latter will be a runner-up in this class. Of all the iris I saw this year, if I could have one that I do not already possess, this would be the one I would choose. It does not burn in the garden, as does COPPER LUSTRE, and has more metallic tones in it. Like many of Mr. Hall's iris, it has good branching, stout stalks, but is a bit on the short side for such large blooms. We could describe them as "stylishly stout." Most of these seedlings are head and shoulders above the other iris in texture, substance, and strength of stalk, as well as in color.

COPPER CRYSTAL and CHARM are very alike, CHARM being the taller of the two and with better branching, but the falls of COPPER CRYSTAL continue a reddish copper to the edge while those of CHARM are lighter at the edge.

RADIANT is very like BROWN BOY, although it is smaller. Both have fine carrying power in the garden. AIDA is an interesting color for collectors. It has blotches on its falls that suggests blood; it has good branching and a unique coloring, but the color does not carry well in the garden. GOLDEN AMBER, with its stout stalks, good branching, and brighter brown color, seems a better garden iris. BROWN BONNET has dark antique red velvet falls. BRONZINO is too dull.

HONEYCHILE has bright red veinings that are part of its attraction. Several of the new iris, such as SALAR and GLEN ELLEN, have this veining. SALAR has the strap-like falls of the COPPER LUSTRE type, but of the two, in my opinion, the preference goes to SALAR. COPPER CASCADE is perhaps the best of these tans; its color carries better than the shades of AIDA, OLD PARCHMENT, and GOLDEN AMBER.

CALIFORNIA PEACH is a tan-apricot in color with nice branching, but BROWN BOY has more value from the standpoint of color. SUMMER TAN is one of the off-shades of brown. It opens an inter-

esting color, but quickly fades to a pale, uninteresting, nondescript tan color. It flops easily.

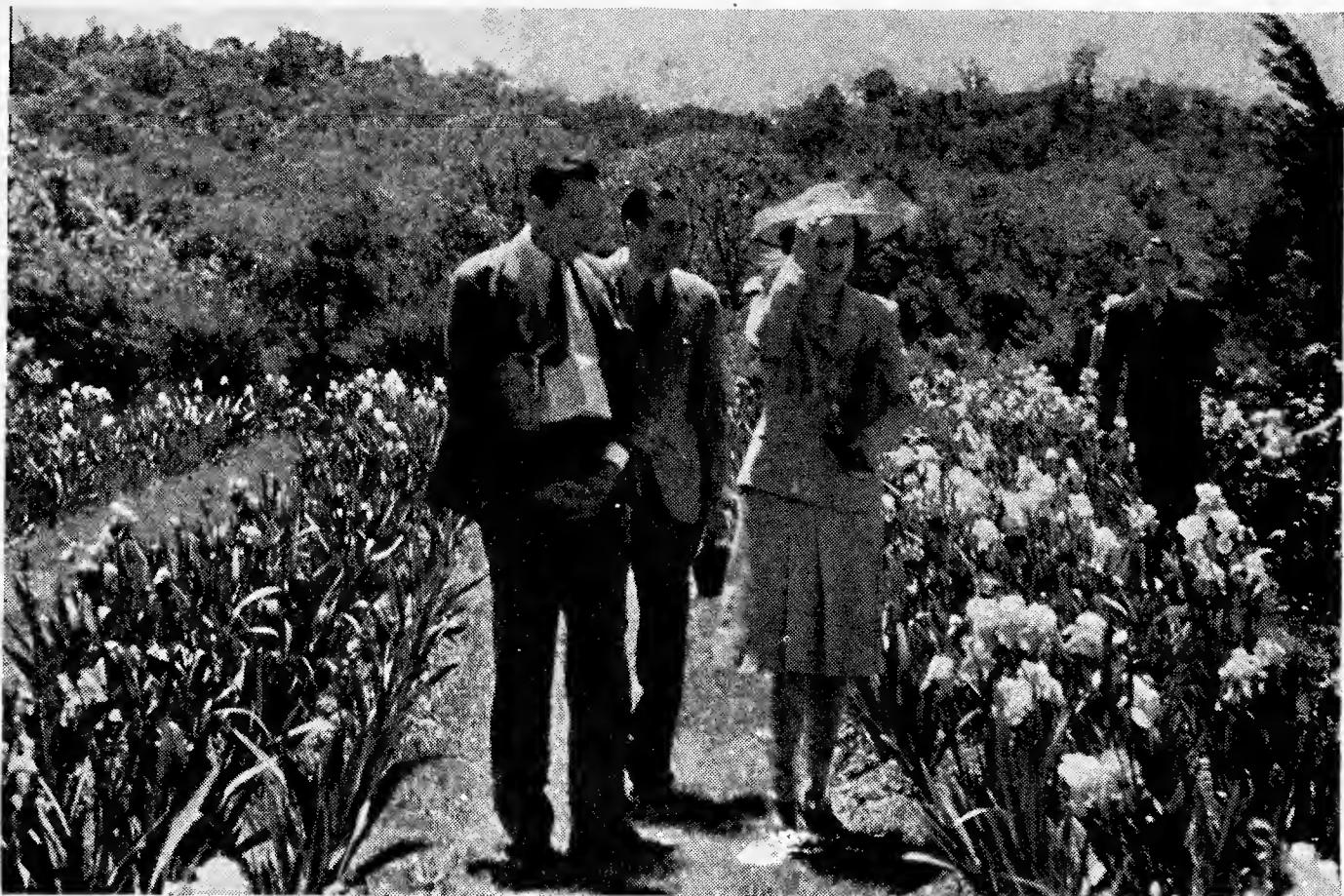
A glance at the new "pinks" shows that a true pink is still a good way off. There are lovely pink blends, lavender pinks, and pinks with metallic sheens, but as yet there are no real bright pinks.

One of the very newest color breaks in this direction is a seedling, 40-318, of Mr. Jake Sass'. It is the color of the foam on a strawberry soda. Some of the visitors in the garden referred to it as the "Strawberry Blonde." It is just average in other respects, but the hybridizer will want it because of the color. **ULLABY** is a pink blend with a metallic sheen that is quite fine. Another of Mr. Hall's seedlings, 40-26, was a pink blend on the same order that I thought was even pinker than **ULLABY**. **MORNING SONG** is also of the same type, a metallic pink blend that still is not pink. In the deeper colors, **ALASTOR**, a light raspberry color with lighter standards is a curious shade. The back of the falls is tan and the upper part, raspberry red. This is a very showy iris in the garden. **DAYBREAK** is a lovely coppery pink that is as good as any of the pinks.

**MELITZA**, a cream iris with a brick red beard and a dusting around the haft of the same color, gives a unique coloring. This iris made a hit with everybody. All these iris promise pinker ones in the future. As yet, **RETTA**, **No-WE-TA**, and **EROS** are as pink as any. **ARETHUSA** might be called a dark pink blend. A very tall iris, it is a cool weather type. It flops in the hot sun, and its branching could be better, but I like it. It blooms over a long period of time. Mr. Lapham's new pinkish copper blend, **LE FEVRE**, while a fine color, is not as trim an iris as one would like.

**PRAIRIE SUNSET** is lovely, but somehow I had expected too much after reading a dozen different descriptions of it. It could be taller. It has the metallic sheen so many of the newer iris have. Still the flower grows on one. The more one studies it, the lovelier it seems. In color it suggests Tiffany glass to me. Whiting, 39114, is a lovely piece of Moire. The watermarks all are a great part of its attractions. It is leggy and bunches badly. Its color is old mulberry rose. **MISS CALIFORNIA** is rather a mauve type that seems to go unnoticed in the parade of new color breaks. Ditto **MONADNOCK** and **MOROCCO ROSE**. **CHINA MAID** is as pink as any of the blends, and one of the best. It fades to a real pink, although it opens a blend.

The hybridizers are still going to town with the yellows. **GOLDEN FLEECE**, **GILT EDGE**, **GOLDEN SPIKE**, **SPUN GOLD**, **SYMBOL**, and **ELSA**



*Kodachrome by K. D. Smith*

*Mr. Jesse Wills, Mr. F. W. Cassebeer, and Miss Mary Williamson admiring Mr. Wills' seedlings*

SASS are just a few of these that as a class stand second only to the light blues in quality. GOLDEN FLEECE and GILT EDGE are very alike. GILT EDGE is taller but not so well branched. GOLDEN FLEECE is a half shade darker, and its falls are not quite so wide, but it has a personality that gets the advantage over GILT EDGE. It is a very cool looking iris that suggests lemon ice. GOLDEN SPIKE is not so brassy as YELLOW JEWEL. The standards tend to open up but the branching is swell and the beard is attractive. YELLOW JEWEL is very floriferous, the blooms well placed and well shaped. There is plenty of room for both of these iris. SPUN GOLD, too, is a good iris. It is a golden yellow. The Hall seedling, 40-05, is the purest yellow (a chrome) of all in the garden. GOLDEN GLORY is a fine yellow. SYMBOL is a good yellow with red veinings that add to its attractiveness. It is shorter than GOLDEN SPIKE, but has a finish that makes it an attractive iris that holds its own even when placed right next to GOLDEN SPIKE. It is very floriferous, a half-shade lighter than GOLDEN SPIKE. MAYLING SOONG is a smooth yellow; it could have better branching, but stands up well under a wind.

GOLDEN MAJESTY on one-year plants was so much better than on

the established plants. On 40-inch stalks with three well placed blooms, it was an exhibition type. In a clump, it was just another yellow.

INVICTUS is what might be called an exhibition iris. It is an immense tannish yellow with brownish splotches, that one visitor referred to as blood, on the falls. The same splotches are on AIDA. Perhaps its name brought up the phrase "bloody but unbowed." This iris is for growing in the back of the border and for flower shows as specimen blooms, but it is too large for arrangements.

On the other hand, GOLDEN GLOW is a bright yellow that would be good for the border or for arrangements, but would have no chance against a stalk of YELLOW JEWEL or INVICTUS in the specimen class.

Among the darker yellows:

PADISHAH: good coloring; weak stalks but excellent branching.

SUNBURST: unique, almost burnt, orange; bright color; branching all right, and stalks just a little too slight for the blooms.

LUCRE: opens up the standards too much; the veinings are pronounced.

CORONET: a tan blend, with nicely shaped medium blooms.

GOLD COAST: a small but floriferous yellow.

As I have said before, SUNGOLD is very valuable because it blooms early. SUN SPOT has a white spot in the falls. It is a medium light yellow, and could have better branching.

CARVED IVORY, a light cream colored iris, has good substance. There is a change in the texture of the petals near the edge so that it gives the effect of having a ruffle.

Another cream iris, OKLAHOMA CITY, flops under strong winds.

NARANJA is still one of the best in the orange shades. At the flower show in Lynchburg, a stalk of NARANJA with four well placed blooms was judged the best in the show.

After surveying the new reds, I think that we are nearer the true red than we are the pinks. But there is a lot of work yet to be done, not so much on the color as on the other characteristics. With the exception of RED VALOR and THE RED DOUGLAS (which has plenty of blue), most of the reds have little else to recommend them outside of color. They all need better ideas of housekeeping—they give the appearance of having slept in their clothes. They burn easily in the sun. RED GLEAM, STAINED GLASS, and EDWARD LAPHAM are all good color breaks, varying perhaps a shade or so in color or

in intensity, but not one of them begins to have the finish and quality of a dozen or more light blues.

RED VALOR is the best of the lot, and THE RED DOUGLAS rates highest for qualities outside of color. But we can see from the new ones that the real red is just around the corner. These reds all burn badly. CAPTAIN BLOOD in particular burns, and he looks as though he needed his clothes pressed. FIREFLY has open standards that are attractive, but are soon burned up by the sun. I wish that the hybridizers would soon find an iris with the color of RED GLEAM or EDWARD LAPHAM or STAINED GLASS, with the texture of GLORIOLE, and with the shape of WHITE GODDESS or GUDRUN or SHINING WATERS, and one which would not burn. And while we are talking of iris made to order, I wish that some one would develop one with the color of GOLDEN HIND, but with better ideas of tidiness. GOLDEN HIND, while still the richest colored yellow, is very slovenly. It is worse than the old ANTARES about forgetting to drop its falls.

FOREST AFLAME is a rather dull iris. BLENDED BEAUTY after a hot day is "mimsy."

Among the lighter reds, LIGHTHOUSE is still the best I know. It is of such stuff as Dykes Memorials are made.

INSPIRATION, an off-shade of red, is a gorgeous iris with lovely buds. ROB ROY is a red that gets lost in the shuffle.

DERRILL HART is another exhibition type, a dark red, a bicolor. OURAY and PIUTE (half-sisters) are very red and have short stalks. WILDFIRE is as red as any red I've seen, but it is small.

In the variegatas, there are two types. In the first are those of the GOOD CHEER type with heavy veinings on a yellow background in the falls. In this group would be MARVELOUS and MIRADOR, and I can't see any difference in them. EX-PRESIDENT is very like GOOD CHEER, but is a larger, finer, heavier flower.

In the type with the solid colored falls, Hall's 38-9 is a large, bright variegata. It is very similar to BURLESQUE, although larger. The latter has falls a half-shade darker. The falls of CONSTELLATION are darker still. This is a grand iris. RABAHERE does not begin to compare with any of these three.

RAMUNTCHO (where do they get such names!) is a bright variegata; the standards are darker than the Hall seedling, but the falls are brighter.

RAFI is a variegata that has a nice border around the falls, but somehow it does not stand out.

KANSAS SUNRISE is a blended variegata with reddish falls and tan standards, but it is nothing to get excited about.

Among the new plicatas, ST. JOSEPH is on the order of SAN FRANCISCO, no better, no worse. FLORENTINE is so sanded that at a distance it appears to be a light blue. LADY PRISCILLA is a very feminine, ruffled type with pink markings. Col. Nicholls has a seedling that is one of the best yellow plicatas that I have seen. ORLOFF is very floriferous and browner than TIFFANY, which has a better shaped bloom and is better placed on the stalk.

After the season, the best color breaks stand out as Hall 40-14 and Sass 40-318, MELITZA and ALASTOR. But it certainly was a year for light blues. All the hybridizers seemed to get some good ones.

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### TO AN IRIS LOVER

*If your garden's finest iris  
Seemed inordinately slow,  
With nary a bloom 'til time had lapsed  
For rhizome roots to grow,  
And then one dazzling day in May  
As anxiously you hovered  
Above the precious plantings,  
You quite suddenly discovered  
A bud was swelling underneath,  
And soon would burst its fan-like sheath,  
Would your heart leap as mine did,  
Or was it a foolish thing?  
For this old heart with me  
Up and did a Highland Fling!*

CORINNE GOULD CHAMBERLAIN

# BREEDING AND PROPAGATING LOUISIANA IRIS

GEORGE ARCENEAUX

■ THE IRIS of southern Louisiana had received relatively little attention prior to the recent investigations of Small and Alexander.<sup>1</sup> Basing their classification on the physical characters of plants as found occurring naturally, the above investigators have described a great number of forms which are tentatively classified as new species. In his *Flora of the Southeastern United States*, published in 1903, Small lists only eight iris species, whereas in his *Manual of the Southeastern Flora*, published in 1933, 96 species are listed.

Most of the different species of iris native to Louisiana can be readily cross-fertilized. In view of the many interesting and horticulturally valuable characters found in the different natural types, it is felt that the group offers attractive opportunities to the amateur as well as to the professional plant breeder. Therefore results obtained in recent studies of some of the incidental problems of technique may be of interest at this time.

## *Controlled Pollination Studies*

The following described studies were undertaken to determine the efficacy of emasculation and bagging in preventing contamination and to supply information as to the most advantageous stage at which to pollinate the flower. As shown in Table 1, a number of flowers were emasculated in the bud stage (approximately one day ahead of anthesis) and were bagged immediately in sacks of suitable size made of heavy muslin. In each case, five flowers from the same clone were emasculated on the same day. One of these was pollinated immediately following emasculation, another on each of the three successive days and the fifth one was left unpollinated, as a check. In all cases, pollen from freshly opened blossoms of the same clone was used.

In every instance, the flower left unpollinated failed to produce seed indicating that the means taken to prevent contamination had been entirely effective. Most of the other cases were "takes," thus

<sup>1</sup>Small, J. K., and Alexander, E. J. Botanical Interpretation of Iridaceous Plants of the Gulf States. (Excerpt from *Manual of Flora of Southeastern United States* by J. K. Small.)

TABLE 1.

Showing number of seeds per pod from pollinations made at time of emasculation (in bud stage) and at daily intervals thereafter. Flowers bagged at time of emasculation

Species or Variety	Date emasculated 1937	Time of fertilization. (Days after emasculation)					Check <sup>3</sup>
		0 <sup>2</sup>	1	2	3		
I. fulva	April 8	52	35	69	33	No pod	
I. fulva	April 8	62	No pod	34	51	No pod	
I. fulva	April 9	31	55	52	45	No pod	
I. giganticoerulea	April 12	57	37	64	36	No pod	
No. 20 <sup>1</sup>	April 10	20	27	34	44	No pod	
No. 20	April 12	36	34	45	No pod	No pod	
No. 20	April 15	31	No pod	No pod	40	No pod	

<sup>1</sup>F from cross fulva X giganticoerulea.

<sup>2</sup>Fertilized immediately following emasculation.

<sup>3</sup>Emasculated, bagged and not fertilized.

pointing to a rather high degree of receptivity during the entire three-day period. It is interesting to note, however, that pollinations made immediately following emasculation did not give a single failure in the seven trials. Pollinations made 24 hours after emasculation gave two failures out of seven trials, while those made at the end of 48 to 72 hours, respectively, gave one failure each out of seven trials.

Emasculation was accomplished by pinching off the stamens with ordinary tweezers. In this connection, it was noted that in almost all cases, the anthers had opened prior to emasculation. This can easily become an important source of contamination unless care is exercised in removing the anthers, but the above results seem to indicate that fertilization by natural means does not usually occur before the flower has opened.

In the above mentioned tests, fertilization was effected by brushing an open anther over the stigmatic surface of the female flower. In order to accomplish this, it was necessary to raise the protective organ, or "lip," which ordinarily tightly covers the stigmatic surface at that stage. The ease with which the latter operation could be accomplished was found to vary greatly with the different species

and varieties. Forms whose stigmatic surfaces could be thus readily uncovered were usually found to be very successful female parents.

### Seed Germination Studies

The seed of native iris species when planted under ordinary conditions usually give only a very small percentage of germination during the first year. If they are allowed to mature thoroughly on the plant, and are then planted during the fall, most of the seeds will remain dormant for one year before germinating. In most cases, a small percentage will germinate during the succeeding winter and early spring months (usually two to eight per cent), but in other cases, there will be no germination whatever within a period of approximately a year from planting. The disadvantages of such excessively delayed germination are obvious.

TABLE 2.

Percentage of first-year germination obtained with two different forms of iris following different seed treatments. (Germination counts made March 1, 1937)

Species or Variety	Treatment Number (See footnote)				
	1	2	3	4	5
<i>I. giganticoerulea</i>					(Lot 1) 87
Small	2	0	1	32	(Lot 2) 81
<i>Iris No. 303</i> <sup>1</sup>	8	2	0	24	90

<sup>1</sup>Collection accession number. Probably *I. citriostata* Small.

### TREATMENTS:

1. Pods collected and seed removed from pods September 18, 1936. Seed planted in open Sept. 18, 1936.
2. Pods collected and seed removed from pods July 9, 1936. Seed kept in wet peat moss at temperatures of approximately 4° C. from July 9 to September 18, 1936. Planted in open September 18, 1936.
3. Pods collected and seed removed from pods September 18, 1936. Seed kept in wet peat moss at 4° C. from September 18, 1936, to February 8, 1937. Planted in open on February 8, 1937.
4. Pods collected and seed removed from pods July 9, 1936. Seed planted in open September 18, 1936.
5. Pods collected and seed removed from pods July 9, 1936. Seed planted in boxes which were kept in insulated chamber (temperature ranging from 27° to 35° C.) from July 9 to September 18, 1936, during which soil was kept saturated with moisture. Boxes moved to open September 18, 1936.

During the fall of 1936 preliminary studies were conducted with seed of two of the common iris forms found in Louisiana to determine possible methods of hastening germination, the results of which are given in Table 2.

In view of the satisfactory experience with other plants, the "cold treatment" was tried on both immature and mature seeds (treatment 2 and 3). In addition, practical variations in planting practices, as described in footnotes to the table, were tested. As indicated by the results given, the "cold treatment" did not prove effective with either immature or mature seed; in fact, the latter treatment was followed by a rate of germination somewhat lower than obtained in the case of plantings made on September 18 with seed from pods which had just been collected from the plants.

It is interesting to note that seed removed from relatively immature pods on July 9, and planted on September 18, gave in each of two trials a significantly higher rate of germination than was obtained with seed which had been permitted to mature on the plants and which was planted on September 18. Of special practical interest, however, are the results obtained from planting relatively immature seed under conditions described under treatment 5. In this case, duplicate 100 lots of seed of *I. giganticoerulea* gave, respectively, 81 per cent and 87 per cent germination, while a similar lot of seed from iris No. 303 gave 90 per cent germination.

From a comparison of results obtained from treatments 1 and 4, it would seem that removing the seeds from the pods while still in a relatively immature condition has in itself tended to promote early germination. It is not possible at this time definitely to determine the factor or factors responsible for the additional increase in germination obtained with treatment 5. In this case, the seed was kept in moist soil from the time of its removal from pods in an immature condition, which in itself may have been the primary factor responsible for preventing or breaking the usual rest period, but the very low per cent germination obtained from seed kept in a moist condition at a temperature of approximately 4° C. from July 9 to September 18 and then planted in the open, indicates that the range of temperature maintained was also an important factor.

### *Summary*

In controlled pollination tests with three forms of Louisiana iris, the best results were obtained in cases where artificial pollination

was done in the bud stage. Pollination at stages corresponding to the first, second, and third day, respectively, following the opening of the flowers gave fewer "takes," but the results do not indicate a great change in receptivity within the period covered.

Mature seed of Louisiana iris planted during the fall gave an average of five per cent germination during the following spring. The usual "cold" treatment (4° F.) was found ineffective in an attempt to break the rest period of immature as well as mature seed. Immature seed planted in flats on July 9, kept at temperatures ranging from 27° to 35° C. for a period of 71 days, and then subjected to outside weather conditions, germinated at rates ranging from 81 to 90 per cent during the following January and February.

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## OUR MEMBERS WRITE

### *No Awards Made at Rome*

■ IN CASE no official word was sent to you, I think it best to write that no awards were given in the Colle Oppio iris trials this year. In view of the international nature of the trials and of the jury, it was felt that it would be better to suspend things "for the duration." The iris were beautifully cared for and in excellent condition, and the park director asked me (as a past delegate of your Society) to come to see them and make notes to serve in a future judging. I can only say that there were several iris worthy of the gold medal, but I do not know where they came from.

We had a temperature of 24 degrees F. on Good Friday (April 13) and it caught PURISSIMA and a number of others with buds ready to open. The stems gave way and bent to the ground; some recovered, but others did not, and all through the six weeks' flowering season, I would find stems dried and shrivelled like a piece of string. It was sad to have no new iris to see, except for those given with great generosity by Col. Nicholls to various Italian amateurs (he authorized the distribution) of the surplus from his Colle Oppio entries of 1939 and 1940. As one looks about the garden at various beautiful iris, it becomes a pleasant game to conjecture about which varieties one would most like to have created. In my case, it would be LAGOS, LIGHTHOUSE, AUBANEL, GOLDEN MAJESTY, MARCO

POLO, and WILDFIRE, with SANDIA and PORTLAND, and MARISHA as I remember it from last year, close seconds. LAGOS was superb, with such distinction of form and spacing, and such solid texture that its flowers stood up through rain and hot sun. It is a variety slow to develop, but very fine when well established. LIGHTHOUSE has been so good for two years that I cannot understand why the BULLETIN does not ring with its praises. Among the yellows I own, GOLDEN MAJESTY was quite the best in the two years I have had it, with SUNBURST as a close second. They have a finish of texture and shape which is lacking in LADY PARAMOUNT, LUCREZIA BORI and some other big yellows; even CALIFORNIA GOLD, despite its striking color, seems coarse beside GOLDEN MAJESTY.

E. B. WILLIAMSON has definitely refused to give the superb flowers it did in 1938, when it took the gold medal, and this is true not only in my garden, but in every other place in Rome where it is grown. It is under three feet, with many badly shaped flowers, and it lacks the substance necessary to show its rich color at its best. Even the Colle Oppio plants are low, bushy, and not well spaced. It would be interesting to know *why* this happens. RED VALOR, on the other hand, was as good this year as last.

I would be grateful for any new iris catalogs if sent to me at Badia Prataglia (Arezzo), Italy.

MARY SENNI

*Rome, Italy*

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### *A Critique of Notes on Native American Iris*

■ I READ Mrs. Arbuckle's article in the January BULLETIN with interest although I felt it contained some misinformation. Since it was of interest enough to publish I think it can stand some correction. Much of her information seemed to be second hand and I am wondering how many of our natives she has seen in their wild state. I believe I can safely state that I have seen practically all of them except *I. prismatica*; and most of them I have seen many times in many places, for in the last four years I have followed them about 60,000 miles. In 1939 alone, I saw wild iris nearly every day for 3½ months and covered a great deal of territory. May I offer the following comments on Mrs. Arbuckle's notes in BULLETIN 80:

IRIS Verna is almost stemless; its stem is one and one-half to two inches instead of ten inches.

*I. tridentata*. *I. tripetala* is the preferred name and it is in no way related to *I. setosa*, but *setosa* is very close to *I. sibirica*.

*I. cristata*. Add Indiana and Oklahoma to its range.

*I. virginica* grows much farther north than Ohio and Illinois, at least as far as the Canadian border in northwestern Minnesota. It is common in places on the shores of Lake Superior in upper Michigan. It does not grow in the Southwest, although it is found in eastern Texas. It varies much in form and in color, varying from white to deep red or blue-purple, and I know a colony near Grand Marais, Michigan, that is as red or redder than *kermesina*. *I. shrevii* is one of the many forms of *I. virginica*. It might rate as a subspecies if the authorities could agree on which form was the type.

*I. versicolor* is a natural hybrid. Its parents are *I. setosa* and *I. virginica*. Neither one is Appalachian, except *I. setosa* var. *canadensis* in the foothills on the Gaspe Peninsula. This form of *I. setosa* is not the form that was the parent. *Versicolor* means, beside other things, varied color. *I. versicolor* lives up to its name as it is more varied than *I. virginica*. *I. versicolor* also grows all over southeastern Canada from Toronto to Labrador and on all the islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

*I. hexagona*. Walter, 1788. Mrs. Arbuckle's description of its habitat is indefinite. It is found near the Atlantic Coast only, from near Jacksonville to south of Ft. Pierce, Fla.; on the Gulf Coast from Ft. Myers to Appalachicola, Fla., and again near New Orleans. It and its variants are found all over the central part of the Florida Peninsula.

*I. kimbballiae*, *rivularis*, *albispiritus*, and *savannarum*. Small. If Dr. Small had been as critical in Florida as he was in Louisiana he could have named at least 20 in *savannarum* alone.

*I. foliosa*. Mackenzie (not I) and Bush. It is also found in north eastern Indiana.

*I. fulva*. One of the two older named *fulva*  $\times$  *foliosa* crosses was DOROTHY K. WILLIAMSON, not both FULVALA.

I do not know *I. arizonica* as such, nor do I know anyone who does. I have been over a good deal of its reputed range and have found no iris I could constantly distinguish from *I. missouriensis*. Number of flowers is not conclusive.

*I. longipetala*. Dykes in *The Genus Iris* says: "This iris is found only near the seacoast of California in the region of liberal winter

rains and heavy summer sea fogs; it is plentiful in the meadows around San Francisco Bay and extends as far south as Monterey." This fits its known range much better than the one in the *Handbook* which Mrs. Arbuckle quotes, for I have seen it much farther north and the Starkers, who should know, say "as far north as southern Oregon."

*I. montana*. Native to the Rocky Mountains and West. Also grows in the Dakotas, Nebraska, eastern Montana, and Wyoming.

*I. missouriensis*. Is this supposed to be the upland form of *I. longipetala* or the upland form of the *longipetala* group? I have seen both in print. It is upland for I have seen it 10,600 feet above sea level, and it is said that *I. arizonica* grows at 8,000 feet. I don't believe there are any wild iris in New Mexico or Arizona under 6,000 feet. It is not like *I. longipetala* for it is not evergreen, its standards are not blunt and are not always notched; neither are the stems longer than the leaves. I have a suspicion that *I. arizonica*, *montana*, and *missouriensis* are not really different species; either that or, if they are, there are many more in the group. I think they belong to a big complex like *I. virginica* and *I. Hexagona*. If the fact that the stems are taller than the leaves is a constant character of *I. missouriensis*, then *I. montana* also grows all over the Great Basin instead of being confined to the Northwest. It has different colors, different color patterns, different forms, different stem lengths and apical notch varying from one-eighth inch to nothing in many large colonies. One has flaring falls and arched standards and one has spreading standards and falls so sharply reflexed that they touch the tube growing within two feet of each other. Some colonies have only two flowers to a stem, others three and four, others mixed.

*Delta iris*. Viosca says there are four species in Louisiana. Using his arguments, there are three in Florida.

Why give specific names to variants and hybrids?

References. Dykes: *The Genus Iris*; Dykes: *Handbook of Garden Iris*; Viosca: *Irides of Southeastern Louisiana*; Edgar T. Anderson: *The Problem of the Eastern Blue Flags*; Carl and Louise Starker: *Oregon Iris*. And my own two good eyes!

A. W. MACKENZIE.

Albuquerque, N. M.

## *A Plea for Iris at Morton Arboretum*

■ THIS HAS been a forward season for the iris in our garden, perhaps because nearly all of them are in full sun. Still, a wild-flower photographer, who visits us often, says the wild flowers are ten days to two weeks earlier than usual.

Our California-bred bearded iris were affected more than usual by last winter's conditions, a winter that also took heavy toll of many other perennials in the gardens of this vicinity.

The narrow end of our iris garden is adjacent to the highway and many motorists stopped to view the iris from the fence. Over 400 varieties gave a fine display of color. When we were in the garden and saw the people viewing it from the fence, we invited them in, with the result that they took many notes, and a number of them asked for the address of some commercial iris grower.

A year ago Mrs. Whiting and Mrs. Ricker stopped, on the way back from the annual meeting at Evanston, to see our gardens. That day the bloom was at its prime; today it is practically over. Our guests spent but little time with the iris, but seemed to enjoy a nearly two-hour jaunt among the wild flowers. At that time the showy lady slippers, which are now on the northern slope of the hill, bloomed in profusion at "The Spring."

The care and culture of many flowers during May and June makes visiting difficult, with the result that I visited only one iris garden. This was at the Morton Arboretum at Lisle, where Mr. Sinck and I, in July of last year, noted many unfamiliar iris names in the collection. The vista of iris color was splendid, but close inspection proved the varieties to be practically all old and outmoded. The Arboretum was once a trial test garden, and they still take splendid care of the old varieties, practically everyone of which stood clean and beautiful and had sufficient strength to hold itself strong and erect. This was not the case with a few of the big modern ones in our garden.

I recall that in some past issue of the BULLETIN a question was asked about why interest in test gardens, especially in this one, has been lost. The management at the Arboretum wonders and has expressed willingness to continue to cooperate if the Society still desires it to do so. It is apparent that the Arboretum gives iris the best of culture, and nowhere is there a better location for the display and advertisement of modern varieties. The present display

of the very old ones, many perhaps never introduced, seems to me to be a very harmful advertisement for modern iris and also indicates neglect by the A. I. S. I believe the Arboretum would co-operate in a display garden if the test gardens have proved unsatisfactory in the experience of the Society.

When we have a location ready for iris in early spring, we always plant them then. Why is the practice of spring iris-planting so much opposed and summer planting stressed? We ask these questions as non-hybridizers and non-commercial iris growers and enthusiasts. Our opinion is that an iris rhizome placed in the early garden about the same time radishes, lettuce and peas, are planted will make more than twice the growth of the early summer-planted iris, will have strong rootlets formed for the winter, and will have three or four times the number of blooms stalks the following spring.

This season our 1940 spring planting bloomed practically 100 per cent. The summer planting, placed about as early as the iris companies would send them, had only about 50 per cent bloom, usually but one stalk, and many of them not tall or typical of the variety as nearly all the spring-planted ones were.

We know, of course, that iris can be handled easily—and lazily perhaps—in mid-summer, but they need no more care for spring shipment than does the average perennial.

R. J. COMSTOCK.

*St. Charles, Ill.*

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### *Appeal from British Iris Society*

■ OWING to the difficulty of writing private letters in these days when shipping space should not be occupied by non-essentials, your Editor has kindly allowed me once more to make use of the pages of your BULLETIN to appeal to those American friends who are members of the English Iris Society to pay their subscriptions to your secretary, Mr. Howard R. Watkins, who has kindly agreed to assist us for the duration of the war.

In spite of all the difficulties we are encountering, we of the English Iris Society have decided to keep our organization alive, for although we have, of course, lost many of our home members, and all members living on the European Continent, there is a little

steadfast group who keep on, whose subscriptions will just enable us to meet the printing expenses for the Year Book.

Some of our American members kindly responded to my appeal last year and paid their subscriptions to Mr. Watkins, but I am sorry to say that not less than 38 have not paid subscriptions for 1939 and 1940, and 11 have not paid for 1940, in spite of the fact that both Year Books were sent to them. I am now appealing to those kind friends to send those subscriptions which are in arrears, also including, if possible, their 1941 payments, but whatever decision they may take, please notify us if they wish to resign.

The Year Book was to be in the hands of the printers as soon as the Annual Show in the beginning of June was over. We hope that our American friends will pay their fees so that they may receive their copies of the Year Book. Naturally, we do not wish to incur extra expense by printing a larger number of copies than necessary. We do, of course, allow for a certain small surplus for new members who might like to secure back numbers. Unless, therefore, members notify us of their desire to resign, we must assume them still to be with us, and the printing order goes through for as many copies as there are names on our membership list.

You may think we should not send the Year Book to any member who has not paid, but in these difficult times, when mail is repeatedly lost through enemy action, we cannot be quite certain how the matters actually stand. Please, therefore, send either your subscriptions or resignation, and for preference, the former, to your Secretary.

SVEND G. FIEDLER,  
*Hon. Treasurer of the Iris Society, England.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Members of the A.I.S. who wish to join the British Iris Society may do so by sending \$2.85 for dues to our Secretary, Mr. Howard Watkins, who will forward the remittances to England.*

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### *We Hear from the Northwest*

■ WITHOUT THE articles and ratings which you publish in the BULLETIN about the newer seedlings all over the country, all of us iris fanciers would be groping in the dark to try to sift out the gold from the dross in the many iris seedlings introduced yearly.

There is no question that hybridizers are steadily making progress in color, form, vigor, and substance, and one marvels to see newer things as they unfold for us in our Test Gardens each year.

We have many visitors now from all over the Northwest, and iris blooming period is such a celebration with us that we almost have to have committees to help us show the good things to our many fanciers; it is a procession from daylight to dark, but how we all enjoy the big moment!

Enclosed please find our garden notes for 1941 (See page 54, *Ed.*). Our aim here was to comment on the newer iris we had seen for the first time.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Thole and Mr. Brehm in Seattle have left the ranks of hybridizers just as they were beginning to give us some wonderful things.

We have about 700 seedlings just planted in our garden. Most of them are crosses made by visiting fanciers, or crosses carrying out their ideas.

We firmly believe that iris of all kinds and descriptions are going to be planted in ever increasing numbers due to the Holland bulb shut-off, and we believe that many people who have not grown iris before will start to do so.

Many thanks from us all in our Yakima Valley for the good work you are doing in editing our BULLETIN.

ALEXANDER MAXWELL.

*Yakima, Wash.*

## THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Membership is by the CALENDAR year. Annual Membership is three dollars; Triennial Membership is eight dollars and fifty cents; Life Membership is fifty dollars.

Make your check or money order payable to the American Iris Society and send to Mr. Howard Watkins, Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Please follow the instruction. It will help us all in the record keeping.

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All of the dealers listed below are members of The American Iris Society. If you are buying Iris for your garden, it should be your particular pleasure to make your purchases from the dealers who have worked with and supported your society. Your officers and directors invite your particular attention to this list. They also ask a favor. When you order, tell the dealer you saw his name in the BULLETIN and do him a favor by not asking for a catalog unless you mean business.

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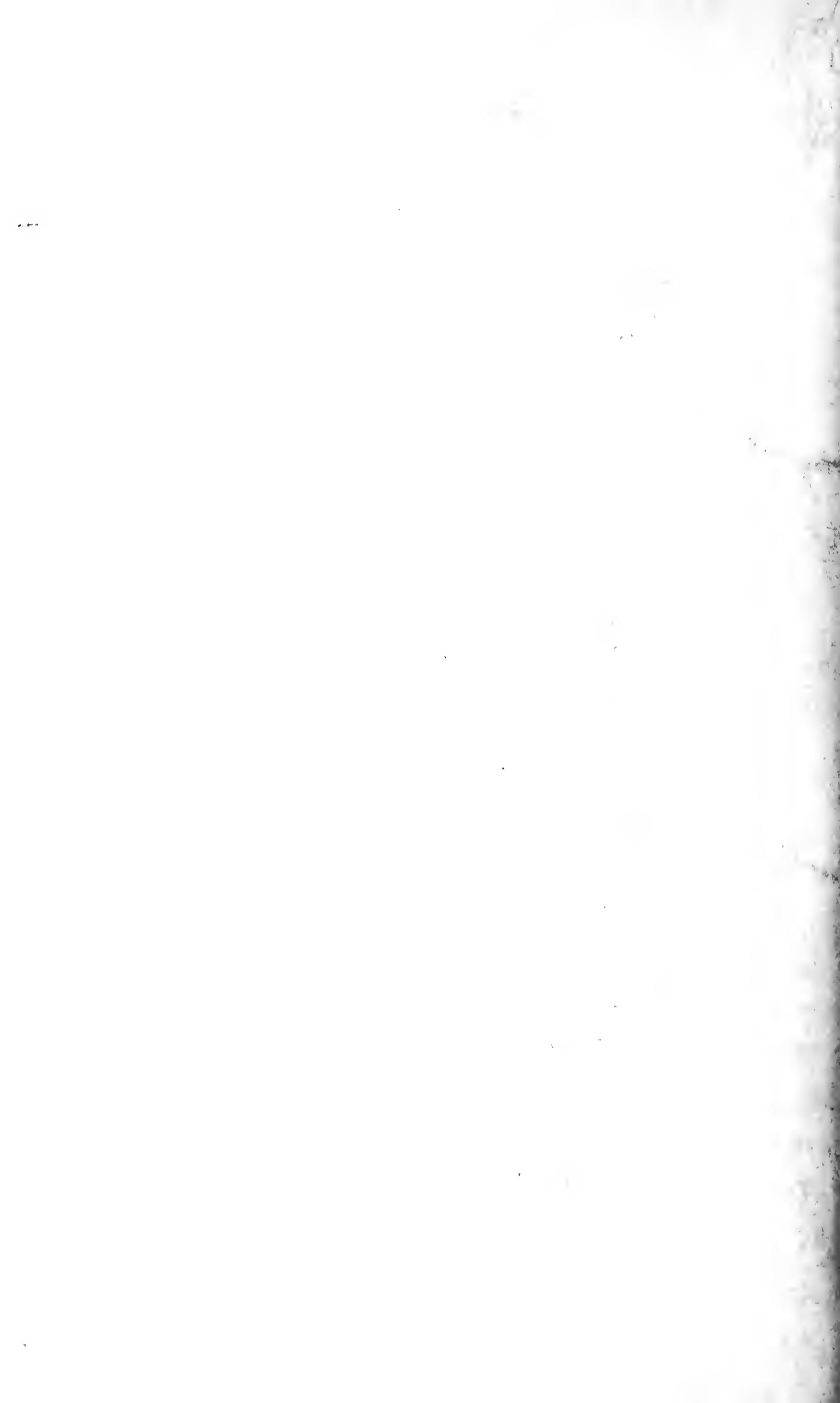
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Each year the members of the American Iris Society read page after page of varietal notes about iris until they must find themselves in more or less of a whirl to keep each variety sharply defined in their minds. There is nothing better to clear one's mind than a look at something else. Here is your chance. It's a bargain, too. For only \$1.00 postpaid, you get all the essential data for one year that you might if you joined a Lily Society and paid three! Can you resist it?

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JW

# BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

OCTOBER, 1941

No. 83

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## THE EDITOR'S BULLETIN BOARD

■ THIS SOMEWHAT BELATED BULLETIN will serve, we hope, as bearer of Yuletide greetings from your Editor. It is rather slimmer than we could wish, principally for the reason that our iris enthusiasts are usually less inclined to take to writing about their favorite flower during the late summer and early fall and also because the Editor has not been able to devote as much time in correspondence to eke out additional stories during the past few months. However, we expect the law of averages to operate here and result in some well-filled issues in the not too distant future.

In this number will be found the annual iris ratings for the mathematically minded, whereas those who like to read about their pet varieties will find grist in the varietal comments sent in by some of the judges. To our mind there are entirely too few of these interesting notes, and it is our sincere hope that a great many more of the accredited judges will cooperate in the future in this phase of iris activity by sending in their opinions on new varieties.

Dr. Graves gives away a few of his secrets in an article on the surprising growth he obtains on his first-year seedling plants as far north as New Hampshire. The damage that mice can do to iris rhizomes is described by Jesse Wills, and Mrs. Lothrop tells of her travels on the Pacific Coast.

Mrs. Miles endeavors to shed further light on the puzzling aspects of rhizome rot and writes of her experiences on the subject. Experts still seem far from agreement as to the real causes of rhizome rot—whether it be due to excessively wet weather, too much fertilizer, tendencies inherited in the variety, soil condition, injury to the plants, lack of drainage, or because of some yet undiscovered reason. In our own experience, the worst attack of rot occurred in the best-drained portion of the garden during the driest weather and affected plants regardless of inheritance. Why?

F. W. CASSEBEER, *Editor.*



From Kodachrome by K. D. Smith

*Among Cayeux's fine set of blue plicatas, Ariane is one of the most beautiful and is a good grower.*

# TALL BEARDED IRIS RATINGS, 1941

*(PERMANENT—20 or More Votes Received)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Originator</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>
				<i>Regions</i>	<i>Regions</i>		
ALINE	Stern	87	60	12	92	92	80
ANCHORAGE	Grant	86	31	10	89	89	75
ANITRA	Sass, H. P.	87	52	14	96	96	80
AUBANEL	Cayeux	87	54	13	91	91	80
AZTEC COPPER	Kleinsorge	87	49	15	91	91	80
BALMUNG	Sass, H. P.	88	48	14	92	92	80
BELMONT	Williams	86	39	12	89	89	80
BONANZA	Sass, J.	84	26	10	91	91	68
BONSOR	Connell	85	40	11	90	90	75
BROWN THRASHER	Kirkland	87	38	9	93	93	79
BUCKSKIN	Kleinsorge	87	47	12	95	95	75
BUTTERCUP LANE	Hall, D.	88	30	7	93	93	82
CAROLINE BURR	Smith, K.	89	46	9	93	93	84
CASQUE D'OR	Sass, J.	85	36	12	90	90	75
CHARLOTTE MILLET	Cayeux	86	31	10	90	90	80
DEEP VELVET	Salbach	90	32	10	94	94	86
DIANA	Smith, K.	87	22	9	94	94	82
ETHIOP QUEEN	Schreiner	86	43	12	90	90	78
FAIRY LUSTRE	Washington	86	25	7	90	90	79
FLORENTINE	Cayeux	88	36	10	92	92	82
GOLDEN SPIKE	Whiting	90	44	10	95	95	81
INVICTUS	Hall, D.	88	20	6	90	90	84
LANCASTER	Cook, P.	89	21	8	95	95	85
LILAMANI	Sass, J.	86	46	11	90	90	75
MARY E. NICHOLLS	Nicholls	89	32	10	96	96	83
MATA HARI	Nicholls	87	36	12	92	92	80
MELITZA	Nesmith	88	57	9	93	93	84
MING YELLOW	Glutzbeck	88	62	11	92	92	78
MRS. WILLARD JACQUES	Sass, J.	85	45	12	96	96	75
NARAIN	Shuber	86	58	10	93	93	77
NASSAK	Sass, H. P.	86	25	9	90	90	80
PATRICIA	Sass, H. P.	87	32	12	91	91	79
PINK IMPERIAL	Weed	80	32	12	90	90	65
PINK RUFFLES	Smith, K.	86	30	7	92	92	79

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<i>Name</i>	<i>Originator</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>
			<i>Votes</i>	<i>Regions</i>		
RED GLEAM	Lapham	87	62	11	92	75
RED VALOR	Nicholls	89	25	10	95	85
SALUTATION	Hall, D.	86	24	8	90	75
SETTING SUN	Kirkland	87	23	9	91	84
SHAWANO	Williamson	86	30	11	90	80
SMOLDER	Nicholls	87	32	11	91	79
SNOW FLURRY	Rees	89	63	12	93	80
SONNY BOY	Kirkland	88	47	12	92	81
SPUN GOLD	Glutzbeck	91	60	12	95	87
STAINED GLASS	Wilhelm	87	56	11	92	80
SUNDANCE	Nesmith	88	28	10	92	80
SUN SPOT	Grant	88	24	8	92	83
SYMBOL	White	90	21	8	97	85
THE DARB	Grant	86	37	10	91	71
TITIAN LADY	Douglas, G.	88	21	8	95	86
TRIPTYCH	Wareham	86	54	10	97	73
VAGABOND PRINCE	Sass, J.	87	31	9	96	82
WEST POINT	Nicholls	89	37	12	92	82
WHITE PRINCE	Douglas, G.	89	30	8	90	86
YOUTH'S DREAM	Carpenter	86	25	7	89	83

### OTHER TALL BEARDED RATINGS, 1941

*(Less than 20 Votes Received)*

ALASTOR	Spender	88	7	90	85
AND THOU	Graves	90	11	92	88
ANNE NEWHARD	Weisner	86	7	89	85
APPOINTEE	White	90	8	92	87
ARCTIC	Kleinsorge	89	17	93	85
ARETHUSA	Gage	86	15	90	78
ATHALA	Cayeux	88	11	90	86
BELLE COVERT	Lapham	87	14	84	92
BERMUDA SAND	Hall, D.	88	8	90	84
BLACK VALOR	Nicholls	89	11	93	86
BLUE DELIGHT	Grant	87	5	89	85
BLUE DIAMOND	Nicholls	88	9	90	85
BONNIE LASS	Douglas, G.	87	8	88	84
Bo PEEP	Lapham	85	14	90	79
BREAK OF DAY	Milliken	84	8	89	75

<i>Name</i>	<i>Originator</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Number Votes</i>	<i>Number Regions</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>
BROWN BONNET	Gage	88	15	92	82	
BROWN BOY	Salbach	86	9	90	80	
CALIFORNIA PEACH	Salbach	88	6	90	86	
CALIFORNIA TREK	White	93	10	98	88	
CAMEROUN	Cayeux	88	8	90	84	
CAPTAIN WELLS	Cook, P.	90	5	92	87	
CEDAR ROSE	Whiting	89	8	90	88	
CHICORY BLUE	Douglas	91	9	97	84	
CHRY SOLITE	Milliken	91	6	97	87	
CONESTOGA	Kirkland	86	7	88	83	
COPPER CASCADE	Kleinsorge	88	12	94	85	
COPPER PINK	Kellogg	90	7	92	86	
COPPER ROSE	Cook, P.	90	8	92	88	
CORAL MIST	Grant	89	13	92	85	
CRIMSON TIDE	Nicholls	89	12	91	87	
DAMERINE	Gage	88	7	89	85	
DAYBREAK	Kleinsorge	88	7	91	85	
DAY'S FAREWELL	Milliken	84	11	93	80	
EDNA HICKS	Gage	86	8	89	84	
EDWARD LAPHAM	Lapham	89	11	93	84	
ELAN	White	93	5	98	86	
EPISODE	White	89	9	94	84	
ETHELYN KLEITZ	Gage	88	8	89	87	
FLORA CAMPBELL	Hill	88	10	92	83	
FLORA ZENOR	Sass, J.	91	7	93	89	
FORT KNOX	Milliken	92	8	98	87	
FORTUNE	Kleinsorge	89	5	93	87	
GARDEN FLAME	Sass, H. P.	91	10	95	86	
GILT EDGE	Whiting	85	6	89	81	
GIN FIZZ	Wareham	87	5	89	86	
GOLDEN AGE	Sass, J.	88	5	90	88	
GOLDEN EAGLE	Hall, D.	89	8	92	83	
GOLDEN MADONNA	Essig	88	10	95	82	
GOOD SIR	Milliken	91	6	92	89	
HARRIET FORDYCE	Weisner	86	7	88	82	
HEIRLOOM	Grant	87	7	90	83	
HELEN M. RIEDEL	Mead-Riedel	84	9	86	81	
HOOSIER SUNRISE	Lapham	89	5	93	85	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Originator</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Number Votes</i>	<i>Number Regions</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>
ICY BLUE	Weed	88	9	90	85	
INSPIRATION	Burgess	86	9	90	83	
LADY NAOMI	Fay	88	8	92	82	
LA LORRAINE	Ayres	88	5	95	83	
LORD DONGAN	Smith, K.	87	17	90	83	
LUCERNE	Salbach	89	5	90	87	
MAJENICA	Cook, P.	89	7	92	88	
MARY VERNON	McKee	89	9	91	87	
MEDITERRANEE	Wareham	88	6	90	87	
MELANIE	Hill	89	8	92	88	
MIRABELLE	Whiting	90	8	93	87	
MISSOURI NIGHT	Callis	88	12	95	85	
MOKI	Thole	83	16	89	78	
MORNING SONG	White	91	5	93	89	
MOUNTAIN SKY	Milliken	90	12	95	86	
NOEL	White	92	8	98	84	
NOONDAY SKY	Weed	87	5	88	85	
NUTBROWN MAID	Nesmith	87	8	90	84	
NYLON	Whiting	87	10	89	83	
ORANGE FLAME	Salbach	87	10	91	82	
PERSIAN PRINCE	Sass, H. P.	90	5	92	89	
PHOEBE	Douglas, G.	89	17	95	86	
POT o' GOLD	Grant	89	10	93	85	
PRINCE OF ORANGE	Kleinsorge	88	12	90	80	
RADIOBEAM	Kellogg	86	9	95	81	
RAEJEAN	Whiting	88	5	90	85	
REGAL BEAUTY	Milliken	87	6	90	85	
RHAPSODY	Williamson	87	6	90	85	
RIDING HIGH	Lapham	87	18	90	84	
RISING SUN	Kirkland	86	5	92	81	
ROOKWOOD	Wareham	86	17	90	82	
SALAR	DeForest	87	16	95	81	
SAMOVAR	Hall, D.	88	9	90	85	
SEA BLUE	Whiting	88	5	89	86	
SHANNOPIN	Pillow	89	8	90	86	
SIERRA SNOW	Kleinsorge	88	6	90	87	
SNOQUALMIE	Brehm	88	10	93	86	
SNOW CARNIVAL	Graves	91	5	95	88	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Originator</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Number Votes</i>	<i>Number Regions</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>
SNOWDROP	Douglas, G.	88	12	95	85	
SPOT LIGHT	Williams	87	8	91	84	
SPRING ARIA	White	89	7	94	84	
SPRING CHIMES	Hall, D.	88	9	95	82	
SPRING SECRETARY	White	92	9	97	88	
STARBRIGHT	Douglas, G.	88	15	91	80	
STARWOOD	Williams	89	5	90	88	
STORM KING	Nicholls	90	15	94	87	
SUNGLEAM	Grant	85	13	90	80	
SUNGOLD	Milliken	86	5	92	83	
TAPESTRY ROSE	Hall, D.	89	8	90	87	
THE ADMIRAL	Hall, D.	90	6	91	89	
THE GUARDSMAN	Grant	89	5	93	86	
TROUBADOUR	Milliken	82	5	90	75	
TYRIAN BEAUTY	Gage	86	9	89	82	
VIOLET SYMPHONY	Smith, K.	88	16	91	84	
WAKARUSA	Lapham	90	10	94	87	
WHITE VALOR	Nicholls	88	6	90	85	
WINTER CARNIVAL	Schreiner	90	5	92	89	
YELLOW GLORY	Smith, K.	88	10	91	85	

### 1941 RATINGS

#### *Siberian, Species, Hybrids and Dwarf*

FARCROSS	White	83	5	88	80
HONEY	Smith, K.	86	4	89	84
MOUNTAIN LAKE	Gersdorff	88	3	89	87
MUSTAPHA	White	82	3	87	75
NEAR EAST	White	87	3	91	85
NELSON OF HILLY	White	88	6	92	83
PRESENT	White	88	5	92	81
SAUGATUCK	Nies	87	3	90	83



## COMMENTS ON VARIETIES

■ MOST OF the following varietal comments were prepared from the notes and letters sent in to the Awards Committee by the accredited judges of the Society.

### ALASTOR

A very distinctive and unusual flower, and the most outstanding new English iris I have seen. It is deep lilac-pink with touches of brown around the falls.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### ALINE

A medium-toned blue with the color running smoothly up into the haft; fine form, good substance and stalk.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### AMIGO

As fresh and lovely as always.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### ANITRA

Large light blue with brown veins over white in the haft; white beard, branching not very good; stalks too short for the size of the flower.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### ARCTIC

Another good white, which has both nice form and excellent branching. It is not as glacial as its name suggests since there is a wash of lemon straight across the haft.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

A striking iris for the back of the border.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

### ARETHUSA

A lovely lilac-pink with touches of brown. The flower is big and spectacular on a tall stalk, but the substance is miserable. It is fine when it first opens, but after the sun hits it a little while, it goes to pieces.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

A nice color, but fades too badly in the sun.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

A magnificent iris in color, size, height, texture, form, and branching, but it will not stand hot sunshine.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

### AUBANEL

To my mind, the best pink blend yet available for the garden, aside possibly from some of this year's introductions. To me, it is pinker than MOROCCO ROSE and CHINA MAID, both of which are good. It is a good grower and bloomer, with size, form, substance, and good branching.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

A pretty pink and gold blend, but it is not so good as some of the new seedlings.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

In the sunlight, it seems nearest to a true pink in effect of any iris.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

#### AZTEC COPPER

Good if a fresh flower is seen in the right light, but too often the copper disappears and the smoky violet seems dirty.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### BALMUNG

I like this best among the yellow plicatas because the regular plicata markings are not too heavy on a background that is really yellow.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### BEAU BROCADE

One of the brightest of those little blends derived from GOLDEN FLARE.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### BLACK VALOR

A very rich dark blue, with satin standards over velvet falls, making it slightly bicolor.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### BLENDED BEAUTY

Large, well-proportioned flowers of fine form, good substance, and good branching; white in the haft covered with reticulations.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### BLUE DIAMOND

Different from most of Col. Nicholl's iris in that it is rather early. Grown with a number of other excellent pale blues, ANITRA, TWILIGHT BLUE, and BLUE SPIRE, it was the lowest, but also perhaps the bluest and most beautiful.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### BROWN BOY

Very much like SONNY BOY, and not quite so good. Either might be described as an improved KING MIDAS.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

A better RADIANT, larger, taller, brighter.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### BROWN THRASHER

A soft, even blend, as nearly true brown as we have yet seen in an iris, and much less dull than other coppery blends.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### BUCKSKIN

Well named. A darker JEAN CAYEUX; well formed, but a trifle dull in most lights.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### BUTTERCUP LANE

A really fine low-growing yellow.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

### CALIFORNIA PEACH

A stunning blend, of good size, form, and substance; similar in color to MOONGLO, but larger and better formed.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

### CAPTAIN WELLS

One of the darkest and richest iris. Not a large flower, but another fine iris for Paul Cook.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

### CAROLINE BURR

A cream-white, not a pale yellow, and excellent in every respect; a good broad-hafted flower.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

I like this iris very much.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

A fine iris when properly lighted, but a trifle dull in full sunshine; wonderful form and substance.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

### CHARLOTTE MILLET

This one is on the dull side, a lifeless purple. Some flowers have a habit of seeming better than you remembered them. CHARLOTTE MILLET, to me, reverses this.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### CHARM

A charming, small, velvety red iris that is brightened by touches of yellow.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### CHINA MAID

A beautiful iris when right, but a very uneven performer in the East. Variable height; poor substance.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

### CITY OF LINCOLN

A bright variegata in spite of the reticulation which extends half-way down the fall and is very pronounced. The branches of the stalk are short, and the buds point inward.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### COPPER CASCADE

Has all the requirements of a good iris. It is a lovely coppery-brown.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

A promising dark blend, almost as brown as BROWN THRASHER; will bear watching.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

On the order of PRAIRIE SUNSET, but duller and not so good.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

### CRIMSON PETAL

Should not have been introduced if it is always as I saw it.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### CRYSTAL BEAUTY

Performed better in extreme drought than any other white, with the longest season of bloom.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## DARK VELVET

A gorgeous iris at Roanoke; a larger, taller SABLE, but without the blue beard.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## DAWNING DAY

This neglected variety is an excellent performer in all kinds of weather, much more reliable than MARY GEDDES.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## DAYBREAK

A promising new pink blend with a good deal of yellow in its heart. Good form and very pink in effect.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

## DEEP VELVET

A grand flower. Not a competitor in the “blackest” class, it is a deep medium purple with a lot of life to it. The flowers are big and broad-hafted on tall stalks.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Very fine.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

A good purple iris. There is yellow on each side of the styles and a distinct red-brown area beside the prominent beard near the haft.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

A richly colored, large blue-purple with a suffusion of reddish copper. A large, impressive flower. One of Salbach’s best.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

## DIANA

A well-formed, smooth flower; well branched, but lacks in color.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

## DRAP D’OR

Few would put it among the best yellows, but nevertheless, it has its points. It is a good healthy grower and bloomer; the flowers have flaring falls and firm standards; it is a self if there ever was one, since standards, falls, beard, and throat seem the same shade of yellow. The trouble is that shade is not as fresh or appealing as it might be, being a trifle too much on the tan or amber side.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

## DUBROVNIK

This iris needs the light through it, but is brilliant and interesting and a vigorous grower.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## EDWARD LAPHAM

Seen only once on a first-year plant; it appeared to be an even redder RED GLEAM, very possibly the reddest iris of all. Other qualities did not seem to be as outstanding as its color.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

## ELAN

A very free, dependable-blooming, crisp white iris; tall, large, and lovely.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### ELSA SASS

Does well in some places and poorly in others. When well grown it is lovely and unique among the yellows. This and GOLDEN FLEECE are often compared because both have white spots on their falls. To me they seem entirely different, each well worthy of a place in the garden. At a short distance the white in ELSA SASS fades away and the flower becomes a pale lemon yellow self, as fresh and sparkling as if carved out of yellow ice. Substance and branching are good.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

I was much surprised to find this iris small, crumpled, and cockled, with nothing to recommend it except its color. Those who like this color should get CALIFORNIA TREK, which is a real iris.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### ETHELYN KLEITZ

The color is excellent and unusual; not pink, but a lustrous, bright, rosy red. The flowers are medium-sized on fairly well-branched stalks.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### EXCLUSIVE

A large, pale gray-blue with hanging falls; very attractive.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### FAIR ELAINE

One of the best yellows, unique in its two-toned effect of pale standards and deeper falls. A reliable bloomer over a long period of time with which it is hard to find a fault.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

The best I have seen of this color.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

Has clarity of color to an unusual degree and a thick, richly colored beard.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

Certainly the best iris in its color class, with form and substance as well.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

### FRANK ADAMS

Fine growth, form, and branching, but the color is dull.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

A huge, floppy, blended variegata.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### FRENCH MAID

A good grower, bloomer, and increaser, but a little dull in color. There are better pink blends.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### GARDEN FLAME

The standards have a blue flush mixed with the rose; the falls are glowing red. The whole effect is as bright as the name implies. It has a large flower on a good stalk when established.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### GARDEN MAGIC

Temperamental, but a good bloomer when it finally gets established, and

the bloom is worth waiting for; large, finely formed flowers of very smooth dark red.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### GLEN ELLEN

If you like the creamy buffs, flushed olive, this is one of the best. Good size, substance, and branching.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### GOLDEN AMBER

Did not seem worthy of introduction.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### GOLDEN BEAR

A flecked bright yellow about the shade of GOLDEN MAJESTY with smaller flowers and narrower petals.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### GOLDEN EAGLE

No. 40-05 to those who saw it as a seedling at Hall's last year; probably as good a yellow as any on the market today.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

#### GOLDEN FLEECE

This is a big distinctive flower and apparently a fine grower and doer. The standards are clear, pale yellow. The falls are white edged with a distinct margin of the same yellow as the standards which deepens into more intense gold at the haft.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### GOLDEN GLOW

A medium-sized yellow, but one of the smoothest. Good form and substance.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### GOLDEN MADONNA

A paler edition of GOLDEN FLEECE, but not so good as seen on a one-year plant.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### GOLDEN MAJESTY

A fine deep yellow self with broad petals; well branched.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

Certainly the best deep yellow to date.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

The best performer of all the yellows.—*K. D. Smith, Staten Island, N. Y.*

#### GOLDEN SPIKE

A new yellow that looks good. Standards a little open, but firm. A larger, less pinched GOLDEN HIND, and almost as bright a yellow.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### GREAT LAKES

In the Cooley garden, this is a superb iris. If it will grow as well in Southern California, it can take its place beside SHINING WATERS, EARLY

MASS, and the other fine blue iris of this region.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### HOOSIER SUNRISE

I saw only the first bloom on a one-year plant, but liked it better than any of Mr. Lapham's pinks. It is a warm or yellow pink, of good form and size, very striking on a tall stalk.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### INSPIRATION

The flower is large and round, but holds its shape surprisingly well. The color is bright, deep rose at a distance; purplish, of course, close by; surprisingly pink under artificial light. It started early and continued in bloom for a long time. Most visitors noted and liked it.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Fades worse than ARETHUSA.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

#### IRIS CITY

A huge purple flower, inclined to be floppy.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### LADY NAOMI

A fine break in plicatas.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

#### LA LORRAINE

The color is odd with grayish pink falls distinctly edged with brown, but it is not especially bright or attractive, and the flaring falls are strappy.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### LANCASTER

A very interesting new iris. The color is light, rose red, with deeper lines on the falls. These lines are not like haft venations, but seem a part of the texture of the blossom. The flowers are large with very broad hafts, but are a little rough, giving an effect of sturdiness rather than of grace. The substance is good and the height medium, with excellent branching.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

A fine pink which could have more carrying power in the garden; seemed a trifle dull on a cloudy day.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

#### LIGHTHOUSE

A lively red—really a red and gold blend.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### LUCERNE

A very good medium blue, which possibly will be tender in the East. It was one of the few things suffering winter injury in a season where practically all the other Californians got by.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### MATTERHORN

A nice white, but it tends to bunch and is not as outstanding with me as some of the California whites.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

## MAY DAY

A lovely orange-apricot color, but a bit thin in substance. It appears to be a remarkable pollen parent, judging by the Hall seedlings which show its influence.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## MELITZA

A remarkable iris, tall, well-branched, and novel in coloring. Especially fine just after sundown in a cool light.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## MONADNOCK

A good size on a high-branched stalk. Nice color, but has considerable veining in the haft.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

## MOONGLO

I like this better every year.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## MOUNT WASHINGTON

One of the first whites to open, with so many buds it is one of the last to close; a warm white. I like the individual flower better probably than any other in its color class. The stalk is tall and strong, but high-branched.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

## MOUNTAIN SKY

A big, substantial, broad-hafted flower of a lovely shade of light blue.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

This was one of the best medium blues of the season; it is a free-blooming iris.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

## MRS. WILLARD JACQUES

A ruffled, warm garden pink that for two years I have liked better than No-we-ta.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

## NOEL

This is the handsome white with surface like smooth kid.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

## OLD PARCHMENT

One of the best. The only thing I don't like about it is its name. Its pale tan-ivory color with a flush of pink beneath deserves a green background. Form, substance, branching, and growth are all excellent.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

The best from Kleinsorge. This and CAPTAIN WELLS are my two favorites of the year.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

Distinguished in form, but a dull color in the garden; more curious than beautiful.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

## OLD ROSE

A large, rather loose flower.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

## ORANGE FLAME

Particularly nice when it first opens. There is considerable veining on

the upper part of the fall, but it is over yellow. It is a bright color and a free bloomer.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### ORLOFF

Still the most striking of the yellow plicatas.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### OZONE

Lacks substance, but it has smoothly blended, interesting color.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

Through good and bad seasons, this qualifies as one of the ten best varieties in my garden. It has form, size, proportion, substance, reliability, lasting power, and unique coloring.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### PHOEBE

A large, bold flower in soft yellow tones with a certain greenish tint. A bit coarse, but an excellent garden subject when viewed a short distance away.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

Those who like it, like it. Those who don't, don't. I don't.—*K. D. Smith, Staten Island, N. Y.*

#### PRAIRIE SUNSET

Did not seem so pink in Berkeley or in Silverton. As I remembered it two years ago, it was a warm yellow and brown. Its stalk and standards are no better than they were two years ago.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

Does not seem too vigorous in the East, but the color is still unmatched.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

A desirable addition to any iris collection. Not so colorful or so impressive as I expected.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

#### PRINCE OF ORANGE

The best I have yet seen of the NARANJA type; very deep and vivid; it attracted a great deal of attention in my garden.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### RADIO BEAM

A pale tan or cream, with olive markings which suggest GLEN ELLEN, but is not so good as this variety.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### RAEJEAN

Perhaps the latest yellow. A good companion for the late purples and blues from Col. Nicholls. A large flower on a tall stalk, light yellow with deeper gold around the haft.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### RED GLEAM

It is unquestionably very red, deep and dark with a gleaming yellow beard to brighten it up. As seen in two different places, however, on established clumps, it did not seem a particularly good doer. The flowers were small

and the stalks short and curved, as though the crowded foliage had not permitted room to grow; it lacks the poise and dignity of CHRISTABEL.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Certainly the nearest approach to red in the color of the falls, but otherwise much like KING TUT, especially in form and in the veining of the haft. RED BONNET is almost as red and a much better iris.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### RED VALOR

A huge flower of good substance and remarkable coloring, deeper and more coppery than RED GLEAM, and more impressive, though a bit amorphous.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### RED VELVET

A very good all-around “red.” A few varieties may be redder, but this one also rates high on form, substance, and stalk, and seems to be a good grower and a dependable bloomer.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Good, but there is white in the reticulated haft.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### REDWOOD

Uninteresting in its color, a smoky rose, and strappy in form.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Poor stalk and not outstanding.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### REGAL BEAUTY

A big blue bicolor, the standards blue and the falls decidedly purple, with considerable contrast. Somewhat on the floppy side.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### RISING SUN

Very fresh and bright in a color effect somewhere between AT DAWNING and SHAH JEHAN.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### ROYAL COACH

A nice plicata, but not outstanding after I saw Mr. Salbach's new plicata.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### RUTH POLLOCK

A decided improvement on TIFFANY, and the richest of the wide-margined yellow plicatas. Very different from ORLOFF.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### SABLE

After three years' observation, I still think this the richest of the dark ones. DEEP VELVET and STORM KING are larger and more impressive, but not so beautiful in color.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### SALAR

Somewhat disappointing. A big flower on tall stalks not particularly

well branched. The standards are salmon-yellow, and the same color in each fall is overlaid with two streaks of orange-brown, starting at the haft and extending two-thirds the way down the fall.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Here is a real novelty in buff and brown, with lots of life, good branching, height, and substance. Fades a little, but not unpleasantly.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### SAMOVAR

Poor form and branching, but a fine garden variety.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

#### SETTING SUN

Another good dark red. It is neither large nor tall, but the form is good and the color is rich and vivid. In some lights it is deep and dark; in others it has a coppery, almost orange, glow. It seems to be a variable performer, growing well in some gardens and being slow to bloom in others. The foliage is small and practically disappears in winter.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### SHANNOPIN

Nearly a pink amoena, with pearly standards and pink falls; somewhat like AT DAWNING in color, perhaps not so bright, but a differently shaped flower on a taller, better-branched stalk.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### SHAWANO

The domed standards are bright, deep yellow; the falls have red lines drawn over the same yellow color. The Longfield catalog speaks of it as an improved NEBRASKA. To me, it is exactly like a very good bloom of Dr. Kirkland's MARVELOUS, grown nearly twice as tall. It makes a fine golden clump at a distance and is unusually tall for a yellow.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Marvelous has much the brighter color, though shorter in stem, and I prefer it to SHAWANO.—*K. D. Smith, Staten Island, N. Y.*

#### SIERRA SNOW

For two years I have been trying to decide which I like best, this or MOUNT WASHINGTON. I believe I like better the individual blossom of the latter, but SIERRA SNOW is better branched. It is a cool rather than a warm white. Since it is a little late and does not make lush winter growth, it possibly will be hardy in places where MOUNT WASHINGTON is not.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### SNOW DROP

Lovely rounded white of medium size and height. Makes a grand clump for the front of a border.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

#### SNOW FLURRY

It has everything but good branching; it does not have any branching at all as the flowers bloom along the stems, but the broad, ruffled, blue-white

blossoms are very worth while. Growth and substance are fine.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### SOLITUDE

A fine, rich, dependable iris that should be better known in the East.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### SONG OF GOLD

This has done well for me for three years, being especially good in 1939 and 1941. It has an exceedingly smooth, even color which has never flecked, and nice flaring form. The color is light, but distinctly yellow rather than cream. The well-branched stalks grow 36 to 38 inches tall.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### SONNY BOY

About the best of the blended variegatas, and a gorgeous thing in the late afternoon sun. Better than RADIANT, SIR LAUNCELOT, BRONZE IMAGE, or EVER GAY.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### SORDELLO

A smooth buff yellow of good form and tough substance that keeps you in the garden after most of the others have gone by. Plant it in front of VALOR.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### SPRING IDYLL

A nice new orchid-pink with dainty flowers well carried on the stalks. It is not floppy like some orchid-pinks. There is a good deal of white about the flower, adding to the airy effect.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### SPUN GOLD

The best yellow I have seen. It is a deep, golden yellow, and the color is clear without any suggestions of orange or brown. There is a hint of velvet on the falls, but this is more appearance than reality. It carries a tailored, well-formed flower on a nicely branched stalk. The substance is good, and there is no suggestion of floppiness even after the flower fades. Apparently it is a good grower.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Marvelous rather than lovely. Huge, smooth, heavy, and velvety, but a bit too perfectly ironed out. I prefer MING YELLOW or GOLDEN SPIKE.  
*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### STAINED GLASS

This iris grows on you. It is a self of an unusual shade of light copper red which glows in the sunlight. It has fair substance, good branching, and enough buds to give it an extraordinarily long season of bloom. It opens in early mid-season and stays until the last.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Especially attractive in my garden when viewed against the early morning and late afternoon sun.—*K. D. Smith, Staten Island, N. Y.*

#### STARDOM

A good name for a very fine iris; a warm apricot-orange with a pink glow underneath. The color is close to that of PRAIRIE SUNSET. The flower is of good form and substance, and it is an excellent grower and rapid increaser, with a very long period of bloom.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### STORM KING

Very deep and dark, one of the darkest, with an exceedingly smooth haft. The form is better than that of SABLE, and the branching is excellent. There is a little brown mixed in with the purple, and the color is not so vivid as the dark blue of BLACK VALOR. It is very late.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

A huge, well-formed, velvety iris in very dark tones; “distinguished” is the word for it.—*John Dolmon, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

#### SUNDANCE

Looks like the best of the buff blends so far. Tall, large, well formed, not too well branched. A little like SALAR in color, but with the brown more evenly blended into the buff.—*John Dolmon, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

In my opinion it is superior to either GLEN ELLEN or SALAR.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

#### SUNGOLD

A good iris for frostless gardens for it blooms all winter; well formed, large flowers and a nice shade of yellow.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### SUN SPOT

A handsome, appealing yellow, tall and well branched, with the bright color set off by a small white spot in the center of the fall. The only point for criticism is that the falls are too wedge-shaped, wide in the blade but dwindling to a wasp waist at the haft.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

#### SUNTAN

Deep yellow standards with falls washed over with brown-purple; attractive.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

#### SYMBOL

A smooth, round flower which is very neat and trim. The yellow is not deep, and yet there is a hint of orange or apricot about it. There are clearly defined fawn marks on each side of the haft. They do not extend down upon the falls, however.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Proved itself this year to be a very free-blooming, deep, bright yellow. It is well branched.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

Seems very good for garden effect.—*F. W. Cassebeer, New York, N. Y.*

#### TAPESTRY ROSE

A new dusky old rose iris for Dave Hall.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrensburg, Ill.*

### THE ADMIRAL

A very fine iris with lots of substance.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

### THE RED DOUGLAS

Performed well this year under bad weather conditions.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

### TITIAN LADY

Something new in whites. The red beard was a little too informal for the rest of the flower, in my opinion.—*Ralph M. Schroeder, Warrenburg, Ill.*

### VIIPURI

Inferior to WABASH in color since the standards are not as clear a white and the falls are a much lighter purple, streaked rather than smooth. The flowers seem larger, however, and are nicely ruffled. There are too few amoenas to overlook this one.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### VIOLET SYMPHONY

VIOLET CROWN much improved.—*John Dolman, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa.*

### VIRGIN

A cream iris that is not well known, but it is a good one; medium sized, with good form, good substance, and good branching. A pale gold edge rims the falls.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### WESTLANDER

A very rich flower with a decided color contrast between standards and falls, resembling somewhat SIR MICHAEL, only better.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*

### WEST POINT

As trim and well groomed as a Cadet on dress parade. A blue bicolor with smooth medium blue falls carrying epaulets of brown and with crisp lighter blue standards. It is medium height, with medium-sized flowers on low-branched stalks. One stalk might not be noticed, but a clump would attract attention. It belongs either by itself or with other very late iris.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

### YELLOW JEWEL

One of the best yellows. I do not like the word "brassy," but it is somewhat the same type of yellow as CALIFORNIA GOLD and GOLDEN BEAR. Rather than brassy, it seems to me jewel-like, as if carved out of some clear yellow precious stone. I have watched it for three years, and it has been good each year. It has a showy habit of opening three or four flowers at once at well-spaced intervals on a stalk. It is a reliable bloomer, but not a rapid increaser.—*Jesse E. Wills, Nashville, Tenn.*

Has a pretty color and other pleasing attributes, but it would be better if the falls were not so long and if the widest part of the fall were at the center rather than at the lower edge.—*Lena M. Lothrop, Alhambra, Calif.*



F. W. Cassebeer

*Robust and striking, Violet Symphony is near the top of its color class.*

## IRIS SEEDLINGS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DR. R. J. GRAVES

■ QUITE a good many people have written most generously regarding the way Edward Watkins and I grow seedlings. For New Hampshire climate, the increase has been rather remarkable, and the reasons given by these entirely friendly writers have been numerous. One has ascribed it to virgin soil, another to intensive fertilization, another to a long winter covering of snow, *et cetera*.

As a matter of fact, the real reason has never even been suggested. The truth is that this creditable growth is due to careful, I might almost say prayerful, attention to each plant from the time the seeds are put, one by one, into flats in the fall.

Where time is not a great factor and the loss of one or two years in obtaining first bloom is not troublesome, or where space is not at a premium, rough hit-or-miss methods may be satisfactory, but not in our available garden plot. We have seen seedlings grown under trees, in all sorts of out-of-the-way places, in witch grass and weeds, but how any success can be hoped for from such methods is beyond us.

At the risk of boring the members of the Society, we want to explain that there is no secret or mysterious formula by which we attain quite satisfactory results. In the first place, we do not believe that really good specimen iris can be grown when mixed with other flowers. This, of course, makes for an iris nursery rather than for an attractive garden, but if the main idea is to grow good iris, we can conceive of no other procedure which will give the desired flowers.

The matters of full sun, excellent drainage, porous soil, and adequate water supply are, of course, elemental. Given these, why does our growth up here in bleak New Hampshire with its short summers and long, cold winters show up so favorably? We are sure that the answer is attention to small details.

The flats are filled with equal parts of loam, gravel, and peat moss to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the top. The seeds are then planted individually so that there will not be too much crowding when they sprout in the spring, usually about May 15. They are then covered with a half inch of sifted loam, tamped down, and "frosted" with

screened gravel. The flats are then sunk into the ground in a sunny place, covered with chicken wire to keep off cats, dogs, and skunks, and are forgotten until spring.

In May the beds, raised about six inches, are prepared with a little humus and a moderate amount of bone meal. When the seedlings are about three inches tall, they are set out. We are certain that if this can be done early in the spring while the "yolk" is still attached, there is no setback and growth goes on, whereas two weeks later, when the plant is travelling wholly on its roots, there is lost growth for about two weeks; and two weeks is a lot of time out of a New Hampshire summer.

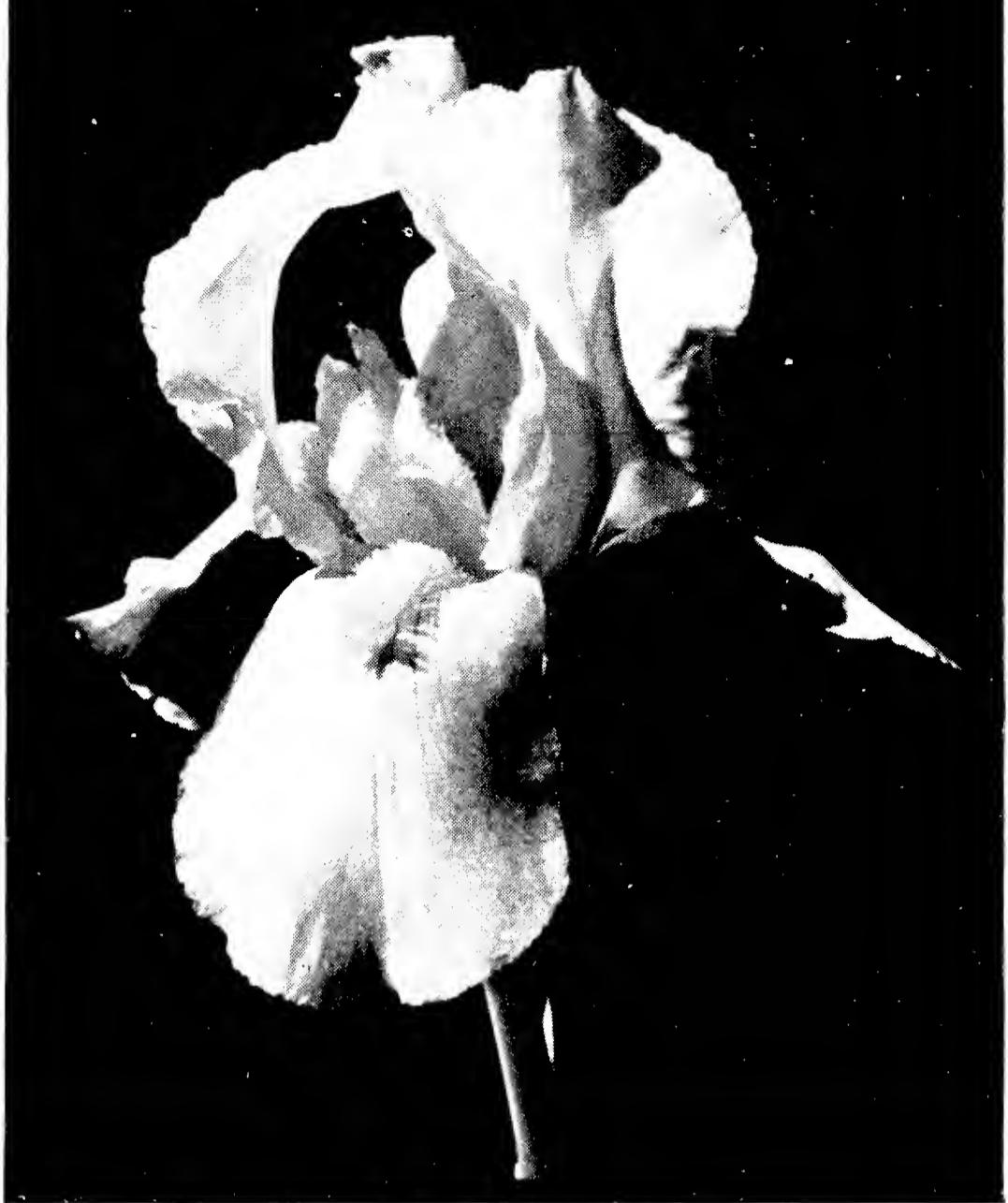
After about ten days the plants are fed a moderate dose of cotton-seed meal, and two weeks later 5-8-7 fertilizer, which is repeated about August 1. Shortly thereafter, a half inch of sifted gravel is put on the beds. This tends to discourage weeds, serves as a mulch, and helps the texture of the soil as it slowly works its way downward. In September all of the beds are given a dose of bone meal.

Of course, all of this time there has been a war on weeds, that is, constant and thorough cultivation. It is very shallow, to be sure, but this "tickling" is as good for the plants as it is for a cat between the ears and certainly makes the iris purr. If there is no rain, the beds are watered thoroughly about every five days. Rot in first-year seedlings is extremely rare.

After the ground freezes, a light covering of coarse hay is put on and held down with pine boughs. This keeps the ground frozen, breaks up sheet ice formation, and brings the plants through the winter in better shape and with more undamaged flower buds. We do not hurry about the removal of this cover in early May.

The high percentage of first-year bloom, that is, 21 months from seed planting, enables us to discard the undesirable, thereby eliminating their care for another year and giving room for growth of the better plants which were originally but eight inches apart.

There may be some better way of handling iris seedlings in cold climates, but to date we have not found it. New Hampshire farmers have always had to fight for what they got, but not infrequently the battle has been worth while.



From Kodachrome by F. W. Cassebeer

*Golden Spike*, a strong-growing, new yellow garden iris.



From Kodachrome by F. W. Cassebeer

*Ormohr*, probably the most satisfactory of all the Wm. Mohr progeny.

## MICE FEED ON RHIZOMES

JESSE WILLS

■ HERE IN Nashville we are having difficulty with an iris pest—the field mouse—of which I find no mention in the BULLETINS. While I knew they were sometimes a serious threat to tulips, I used to think mice would no more eat iris than they would narcissi. This is not true, at least in Nashville.

In BULLETIN 51, there is a brief article on edible iris by R. S. Sturtevant, but this deals only with some of the species from a historical viewpoint. I have been told that bearded iris roots are a violent purge, but our mice either have strong stomachs or they have acquired an immunity through generations of nibbling at iris naturalized along the roadside or in vacant fields.

As in the case of tulips, the damage they do is in conjunction with moles; the mice follow up the mole-runs and gnaw at the rhizomes underneath. Tom Williams first called my attention to this damage at his place several years ago. Soon afterward I discovered it happening with me. During the hard winter of 1939-1940, Geddes Douglas lost quite a number of seedlings because of this, not knowing until spring that the roots had been eaten away.

My property was old meadow land, thick with grass and weeds. Colonies of mice were present when I cleaned it up, and they are still numerous in the vacant fields beyond me. There is a labyrinth of mole-runs deep in my clay soil, discoverable only when a bed or a compost pit is dug. Every now and then new moles wander into this and extend the system a bit before we get rid of them by traps or otherwise. Because the ground was softer, some of these new runs go close to the surface of my seedling beds. The mice use the mole-runs and betray their presence by the little exit holes to the surface which they make at frequent intervals.

I first discovered mouse damage several years ago when LILY PONS was still in the trial beds. She had put on an especially good performance that spring, and one afternoon in midsummer I was looking at the large clump I had when I noticed a slight puffiness in the soil. I touched it and broke through into a hollow where two-thirds of the rhizome had been eaten away. I was on my guard after that

and, while there were occasional instances of damage, I was able to keep this reasonably in check until recently.

During the past winter, however, we were away from home for several months while alterations were being made in the house, and the mice got a fresh start. They followed mole-runs into one of my formal borders and nearly ruined a clump of DOLLY MADISON, besides cleaning up most of my tulips and eating the roots off a number of miscellaneous perennials. Early this summer they destroyed or damaged quite a number of plants in my seedling beds. I would see a hole by a fan, or I would notice a plant looking rather sunken in the ground and give a tug, to have the whole thing come up with teeth marks showing on what was left of the rhizome. In some cases rot followed on the plants that had been only partially injured.

We have tried all sorts of methods in an effort to get rid of the mice. Tom Williams has had some success with traps, but I have not. I have used several kinds of poison bait, but it is difficult to tell how effective this is, if at all. In July I went all around my property, and even over into the adjoining lot, and treated every hole I could find with Cyanogas, using a foot pump. I think this reduced the mouse population considerably, but I have seen evidence of survivors, and we plan to repeat the treatment in the fall. Geddes Douglas puts wads of cotton saturated with carbon disulphide in the holes. I have followed a similar practice, using para-dichlorobenzine crystals. I put a teaspoonful or more down every hole I can find and stop it up, and I also punch holes at intervals in the mole-runs when I can locate them and put in a teaspoonful every six feet or so. I don't know how many mice this kills, but it does seem to keep them away from the iris.

I have noticed accounts of some new rodent repellents which have been discovered recently. One of these is used to treat peat moss which can be worked into the ground; another is advertised as a powder to be dusted on bulbs before planting. These might possibly be used to protect iris also, depending on how they could be applied and how long the effect would last.

While field mice might not be much of a threat to small iris gardens, I am inclined to believe they could do serious damage to large plantings that were not watched closely. Chipmunks may eat the roots also, but here we are convinced that mice are the main offenders.

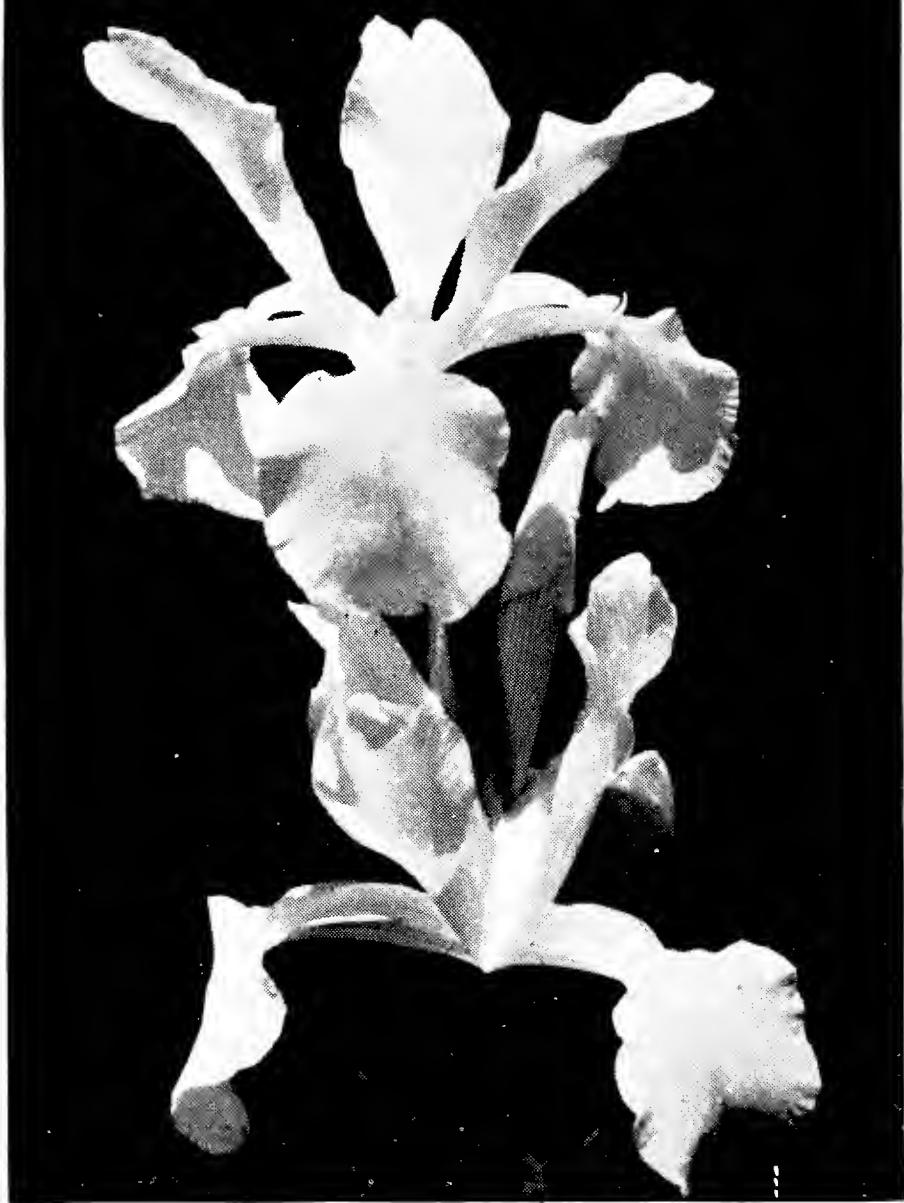
## WINNERS OF SLIDE CONTEST

■ SIX MEMBERS of the Society made entries in this year's color slide competition. There were 44 slides, the smallest entry being one and the largest, 19.

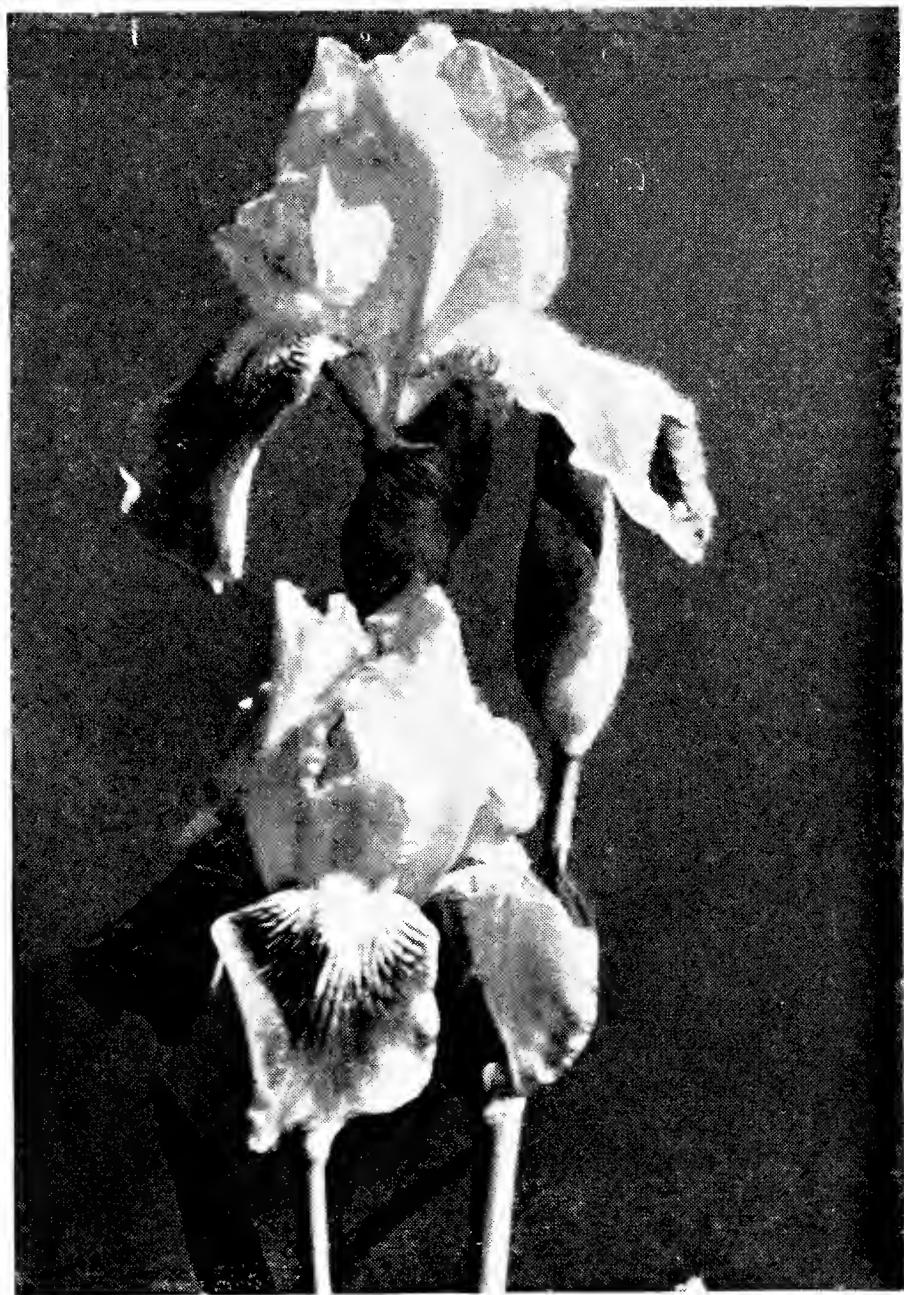
President McKee had appointed Mrs. Franklin Lowry and Mr. Percy Merry to act with the chairman as judges. Mr. Merry is a professional color photographer specializing in flower and nature pictures.

The following awards were made: *First Prize*, Miss Eleanor Hill, Tulsa, Okla., for her picture of the Spuria SUNNY DAY; *Second Prize*, Mr. Hubert Fischer, Lombard, Ill., for his photograph of a stalk of the bearded iris ANGELUS; and *Third Prize*, Mr. K. D. Smith, Staten Island, N. Y., for his close-up of the Cayeux iris NICOLE LASSAILLY.

MRS. P. E. COREY, *Chairman Slides Committee.*



*Spuria Sunny Day,*  
first prize winner  
by Miss Eleanor  
Hill, Tulsa, Okla.



*Nicole Lassailly,*  
photograph by K.  
D. Smith, awarded  
third prize.



*This color slide of a stalk of Angelus won a second  
prize for Mr. Hubert Fischer.*

## NEW THRILLS FROM OLD IRIS

BONNIE BENTLEY

■ IF YOU are one of those iris snobs one meets at national conventions who won't tolerate an iris more than three years old, don't bother to read this. I'm talking to the dear, foolish gardeners who are sentimental enough to feel that the very old iris varieties and the men and women who produced them made history and therefore deserve to be enshrined forever in the gardens of true iris lovers. If you'd like to get three dollars' worth of fun out of your *Check List*, do read this. It's about a game you can play all winter.

Suppose you've had a lean year and doubt if the next one will be any better because of war taxes and the high cost of living. Don't lose interest because you can't buy STELLA POLARIS or ELSA SASS. Just lay plans now to tear up your whole garden and replant it in new patterns. If you have space enough to plant informally, you are very lucky; if not, formal beds with grass plots between will have to do.

With the aid of the *Check List*, prepare a card index file of all the varieties you own. On a separate card for each iris record the producer, date, country, color, height, blooming season, and cross, if given. Then you will be ready to begin your fascinating game of solitaire. Throw your cards into stacks the way you think you want to plant the iris. New themes will occur to you as you go along. Here are some which occurred to me last winter. You might try gardens of the nations, a garden of early German varieties, an English garden, a planting of old French iris, or a very Early American garden. You might even plant beds to honor certain specific firms or hybridizers. A Goos & Koenemann garden or one of Millet & Fils introductions would be a charming spot. Why not honor Farr, E. B. Williamson, or Grace Sturtevant? Of course, you could simply arrange your iris chronologically. I can just see them winding up a long path; the pioneers leading the pageant. Such a planting would have great educational value.

Another scheme would be to develop the evolution of certain colors in iris. Why not plant a garden of the red "hopes" from the first small red species down to GARDEN MAGIC and THE RED DOUGLAS? You could do the same thing with the pinks and yellows.

If you like the group pictures in the old family album, plant a famous iris parent surrounded by its own progeny. Plant WILLIAM MOHR with his beautiful children. You might also collect all of your blue plicatas in one bed to show their evolution. Brown plicatas could be developed in another bed. A garden of amoenas is a lovely thing. In the center of the foreground, plant the exquisite WABASH, and peeping over her shoulders and around her skirts, plant all of her relations, the pale RHEIN NIXE, pert MILDRED PRESBY, dainty IDUNA, gawky CANTABILE, graceful DOROTHY DIETZ, et cetera.

I'm particularly pleased with my "Parade of Giants" marching around a square of lawn. Planted with other iris, they look merely coarse and vulgar; planted together, they are very imposing. And don't overlook the Awkward Squad. By that I mean the very tall varieties which always "snake" or lie down. Plant them all together where there are no other iris to laugh at their infirmities. Stop kidding yourself and stop apologizing for them. Just get a bamboo stake for each bloom stalk as soon as buds appear. There's no reason why one shouldn't enjoy SIERRA BLUE, ALTA CALIFORNIA, or HENRI RIVIERE in spite of their weaknesses.

Now is the time to try round beds of just one low variety. SPARK, RED RADIANCE, No-WE-TA, KING MIDAS, KING TUT, or that delightful small gypsy, ZINGARA, never fail to bring forth exclamations. How about a pansy bed planted with small velvety iris like GOLDEN HELMET, AMIGO, RED DOMINION, etc.? Did you notice the charming little pansy purple beds outside of Mr. Wills' garden wall? A variegata garden is a gay and sparkling thing; just one of a kind and a couple of dozen varieties would be very interesting.

Plant a garden for fragrance. Plant one for very early, and also one for very late bloom. Honor your friends by making separate gardens of their gifts or creations.

Of course, one may always plant according to color, selecting the iris which bloom together and are similar in size, height, and habit of growth. One may have a red garden, a white and gold garden, a blue and pink garden, a blue and gold garden, or a blue and white one. Pastel mixtures are lovely. Try EL CAPITAN, HAPPY DAYS, CRYSTAL BEAUTY, FRIEDA MOHR, and VIOLET CROWN. Plant JEAN CAYEUX, PALE MOONLIGHT, and PINK SATIN together. EASTER MORN or SHINING WATERS make stunning specimen clumps for flanking garden entrances.

Do you have a lot of pale washed-out pinks that you were ready to throw away? Plant MARY BARNETT among them. You'll decide to keep them all.

If you will keep from one to three young clumps of each variety and fertilize and cultivate them as tenderly as you would a new Kenneth Smith creation, you may be moved to exclaim, "Hello, old timer, you certainly carry your age well. You almost had me fooled for a minute!"

You may become so enthusiastic over your historic groupings that you will go antique-collecting to fill in the gaps with varieties you once threw away. You can have some of your best fun with iris which are 20 years old. You will have new thrills from old iris when your new garden blooms!

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*Left to right: Mrs. Kenneth D. Smith and Mrs. Junius P. Fishburn taking it easy at Roanoke.*

## NEW POGON IRIS ON THE PACIFIC COAST

LENA M. LOTHROP

### *In Southern California*

■ SUNGOLD (Milliken) is not new except that it has not long been catalogued. Its chief value is for gardens in warm climates. Even after a cold California winter, it comes into bloom before SAN GABRIEL, and in warm winters, like the last two, it blooms continuously throughout the winter and on into spring. It is not a skimpy intermediate, but a large yellow iris, generous in size and in its quantity of flowers. Besides its winter-blooming proclivity, it is distinctive because of its long (one can hardly say "tall"), fantastically crooked stems! A devotee of the art of flower arrangement was given some of these stalks of bloom and came back for more. "Why, Mr. Milliken," she exclaimed, "how *do* you grow such artistic stalks!"

Mr. White's garden this year contained an orange colored iris and a green one. No. 1-41-2 (FIESTA  $\times$  WASATCH) was the orange iris. It grew a 48-inch well-branched stalk. The standards were rich coppery yellow, and the falls, which were similar in color, were tinted and veined Morocco Red. It was a magnet to garden visitors. The green iris, which was sufficiently green that no one questioned it, had several three-branched stalks 50 inches tall. It has been registered APPOINTEE. The standards were a pale green-yellow blended near the rib with olive yellow. The falls were tinted lime green and sobered with olive ecru. The large flowers were slightly ruffled. It is a good iris.

SPRING SECRETARY has already received some publicity as a sister of MORNING SONG. They are both smooth, lovely blends. During this season the judges in this district decided that SPRING SECRETARY was the better of the two iris, so it is being introduced. It is a good performer.

SYMBOL is proving itself a most satisfactory iris. It produced a wealth of brilliant yellow, waxy flowers with round petals three inches in diameter. The brush marks of golden brown on each side of the beard are intriguing. This touch of contrasting color on the falls is a comparatively new development in iris. I noticed it first in 1939 on this iris; on TOUCH-O-BLUE, which is a white iris with the



*Present, one of Mr. White's attractive new oncobreds.*

touch of blue on each side of the beards; and on OZONE with its red-brown patches on deep blue falls. This year DEEP VELVET displayed to me its rich patches of brown-red, and I also saw in Mr. Walker's Ventura garden a blue seedling, the shade of SIERRA BLUE, which showed astonishing blotches of mineral red. I understood that Mr. Walker, with the approval of our kind registrar, was naming this unusual seedling VENTURA.

SPRING ARIA is a new, beautiful blue iris from the hand of Mr. White. It was the bluest-toned iris in his garden. The petals are broad and extremely heavy and the falls are flat with the color running up into the haft. It is distinctive and very floriferous.

One of the most outstanding iris on the Coast is CALIFORNIA TREK. It will be hard to excel this variety in its class. I hope, for the sake of all iris lovers, that it will do as well in the East and Middle West as it does in Mr. White's garden. The smooth, large standards are the same bright, clear, sulphur-lemon color that one can see in ELSA SASS. The broad, flaring falls are lighter except that the area near

the haft and the margins of the petal match the color of the standards. This is a large iris on a well-branched, tall stalk.

The Millikens have moved their iris gardens to beautiful new landscaped grounds. As it was late before this big undertaking was completed, their display garden was not at its best this season. While the moving was in process, I wandered through the grass and weeds of an old neglected seedling garden and discovered (no doubt they knew it was there) the most beautiful large creamy yellow iris I have seen. ( I made three repeat visits and am still of the same mind.) Choked though it was with weeds and grass, uncared for and unwatered, the stalks were tall and well branched, and the beautifully molded flowers were large and graceful. The many old stalks told me it had been blooming long and abundantly. This worthy iris has been named **CHRYSLITE** and is being introduced.

**FORT KNOX** impressed me as being a very fine, deep, rich yellow iris. When we were rating it, we remarked that it was hard to find any faults. It is one of the iris that is beckoning me to 1942 for I saw it only the one time.

We all like **MOUNTAIN SKY**. It is particularly fine for garden decoration because it is lavish with its flowers. The color is deeper than many of our blues.

A new name was added to the list of Southern California iris breeders when Rev. Fred E. Taylor telephoned that his first seedling was in flower. He and his family thought it was beautiful, I was informed, and they wanted me to see it. It was with fear and trembling that I did go—I know how iris children look to some doting iris parents, and this was a first-born! My joy can be imagined when I found it to be an iris I could rave about. When I had satisfied myself that it had splendid form, smooth finish, heavy substance, and a well-branched stalk, I stood back and delighted my eyes in its elusive and exquisite color. Its name, **TAWNY PEARL**, in a measure suggests the color, which is made up of tawny tints, orchid tints, and lavender tints, all blended like the iridescent colors in a pearl and laid over a beige background. It is something new in iris colors and the flowers had so durable a substance that each one lasted five days.

### *At Berkeley*

Twelve hours after leaving Los Angeles by bus, I arrived in San Francisco. The next morning Mr. Salbach took me to his garden at

Berkeley. It had rained during the night and the ground was muddy and slippery, but Mr. Salbach had provided alpenstocks for early visitors although they were not needed for long. Crowds filled his garden, and the street in front of his place was packed, almost blocked, by automobiles. But before many people came, Mr. Salbach pointed out to me the outstanding iris and, "studbook" in hand, showed me over the seedling gardens. The disconcerting thing about seedlings is that we see them and want them, but by the time they are procurable, better ones are again blooming in the seedling beds. There are, of course, exceptions—some iris remain at the top a long time, and the first iris Mr. Salbach showed me is likely to be one of these. It was by far the finest yellow plicata I have seen. If there had been no plicata markings on it, it would still have been a fine deep yellow iris with its large petals and smooth, lustrous surface. The standards were pure, clear yellow with a few pepperings at the base of the hafts, but the round blade of the shining, golden fall was framed, even at the tip, with plicata markings, leaving the center of the fall clear. One could hardly imagine a more beautiful yellow plicata.

In the seedling beds were many lovely pink blends, for Mr. Salbach is also breeding for a pink iris. I have been growing one of his seedlings (2-35) which is truly rose color and a lovely iris in every way except that the stalk may be a little short for its size. No. 126-28 (MISS CALIFORNIA x GOLDEN MAJESTY) is a lovely pink with standards considerably lighter than the falls. No. 11-39 (MISS CALIFORNIA x GOLDEN MAJESTY) x MIDWEST GEM) has deep peach standards and red falls with copper and yellow tints. COPPER CASCADE crossed with seedlings of MISS CALIFORNIA produced many lovely pinkish seedlings and some bright pink blends. Two striking dark seedlings were planted in the exhibition garden. The first, No. 43-36 (DARK KNIGHT x RADIANT) is a rich, bright, reddish purple iris with very velvety texture and a fine beard. I made note that RED VELVET was good, but that this seedling was better because it has no visible reticulation in the haft. The other dark seedling, which was being called (temporarily) "Darkest of All," attracted a great deal of attention from the many garden visitors. It was very dark and very rich, with a burnished sheen.

In Prof. Mitchell's garden a seedling, No. 8-54 (De Forest blend x MISS CALIFORNIA), a bright French purple blend, stood out from

the others as being exceptional. The type of its smooth blending made me ask if it were related to ANNA MARIE CAYEUX.

### *In Oregon*

Two more days spent on a north-bound bus, riding mostly in the rain, brought me to Oregon. To my surprise and delight, Mrs. Cooley came to meet me when I arrived in Silverton and took me to her charming home for the duration of my visit.

I was told more than once that no one except fools and newcomers attempts to predict weather in Oregon, and Mrs. Cooley, being a native daughter, said, "It isn't raining now so let's leave your bags at the house and go to the gardens; we can eat later." (The long evenings of the north were a surprise to me—one can view iris on into the night!)

Dr. Kleinsorge met us soon after our arrival in his seedling garden. It is a beautifully kept garden, and it contained many beautiful iris, but it was hard to stay long away from No. 275. I doubt if any other breeder has done so much in pushing purple out of iris and putting copper in. This particular iris, No. 275, is a bright, polished copper color. It cannot be described in any other way. Most other copper iris have too much purple to be really copper. It has everything required of a fine iris besides this gorgeous color.

In this garden was also a stunning seedling of ORMOHR x AZTEC COPPER. It is a lavender blend with exceptional substance. It does not show much of its oncocyclus ancestry, but it is good enough to stand on its own feet as a pogon iris. In Dr. Kleinsorge's more intimate garden, near his house, was a superb yellow iris on a 40-inch well-branched stalk. This iris is not "just another yellow." It excels in so many points that it will be a fine iris for years to come. I could name yellow iris that are fine, except that the texture is coarse or the color dull, but this iris has fine finish and rich clear color the shade of GOLDEN HIND. This is No. 301. The petals are large and round with the widest part at the center. If it grows well elsewhere, there will not be found many yellow iris so good as this one.

It was raining again, but as no one seemed to notice it, we went on to the attractively arranged Cooley garden, and after a look around, returned to the Cooley home. I was glad to have seen the iris in the rain, for I saw them next day in the sunshine and I cannot truthfully say that they looked any different. The gorgeous copper glowed in

the rain and it glowed in the sun, and the yellow was as pure and beautiful in the rainy evening as it was in the morning sunshine. In the Cooley field was an outstanding seedling of Dr. Kleinsorge's named **FORTUNE**. It is a large, coppery, brown-gold self with heavy flaring falls. The color is rich and unusual; form, substance, branching, good; and the many stalks coming into bloom showed it was floriferous, but I would have liked it better if the stalks had been taller. Mrs. Cooley said the field needed replanting, that none of the iris were up to par, which might account for the few inches this iris seemed to lack. I am beginning to think, though, that height has been too much stressed. **GRAND CANYON** was not in bloom—I was sorry to miss it—and in Berkeley I missed Mr. Salbach's new yellow, **GOLDEN DAWN**, which he believes to be the finest yellow to originate in his garden.

Mr. Cooley had flown to the Annual Meeting so I did not see him. I found Mr. Howard Weed and Mr. Thurlow Weed with Mr. Maxwell in the Cooley garden in the morning. Lunch with the Kleinsorges was a happy occasion, and Mrs. Kleinsorge joined us in the garden with the Messrs. Weed and Mr. Maxwell. All judges were agreed that the copper seedling No. 275, the yellow seedling No. 301, and the Ormohr seedling No. 300 were outstanding iris and worthy of introduction.

Later in the afternoon, Mrs. Cooley drove me to the Schreiner planting and walked miles with me up and down the rows, but we did not see any outstanding iris that we had not seen before. **Louvois** was lovely there, but it does not grow well in Southern California. I saw in Oregon three blue iris, **EXCLUSIVE**, **ALINE**, and **GREAT LAKES**, each different from the others and all lovely, which were new to me and which are now on my "must have" list. They may not thrive here, but I will try them. I saw **CHOSEN** in the Cooley garden, and if it had bloomed so at its first flowering there would have been no **CHOSEN**. It is always beautiful here in Southern California. A seedling of my own (**SEQUOIAH** x **SWAZI**) that I could not bring myself to discard in spite of its fault of invariably blooming down among the leaves was sent to southern Oregon, and there I saw it on splendid stalks 40 inches tall. Now tell me, can anyone make a list of 100 best for the whole world when there is such a difference between Oregon and Southern California in the performance of iris?

## THAT PUZZLING RHIZOME ROT

### ELIZABETH B. MILES

■ I HAVE JUST reread Mr. Harold T. Bent's two articles in BULLETINS Nos. 77 and 81 of April 1940 and 1941. I agree to a large extent with Mr. Bent's opinions, but I have found that there are some differences.

My garden is in Ohio, outside of Cleveland, and it is exposed to sharp climatic changes. It is also small, which enables me to observe conditions very closely, and I have kept notes in my garden book for nearly ten years.

The theory that parentage influences the tendency to rot must have some real value because we know that some varieties are more susceptible than others. However, since we are unable to know fully the parentage, and therefore the hereditary faults, of our iris, we must work with facts of which we are sure—that is, type of soil, weather, use of fertilizers or soil conditioners.

The two chief factors that influence the appearance of rot are without doubt the type of soil and the weather. My soil is clay, broken up by the addition of equal parts of peat moss, top soil, and humus formed from grass cuttings. The fertilizers I have used are chiefly incinerator ashes in the spring, with bone meal and wood ashes added before fall. The beds are raised and have excellent drainage.

The chief cause of rot is moisture (rain). Iris, I think, can stand a "reasonable" amount of lime, a fairly rich soil, and even manure, if they are normally healthy and there is very little moisture. In a wet season, as was the case last year, there was a considerable amount of rot in gardens having a rich soil from the use of considerable humus on heavy applications of manure—all in heavy clay. I find that the rhizomes in our climate must be placed quite high in the ground until well-established and fully exposed to the sun.

In the trial gardens of the Cleveland Garden Center, there are a number of iris which I have procured for them, some new rhizomes and some clumps from my gardens, planted with perennials and annuals. The soil is sandy, enriched with manure. Last winter a heavy mulch unfortunately was used, due to a change in personnel

in charge of the garden, and it was removed late in the spring—far too late, for it did considerable damage to the perennials. Strange to say, most of the iris bloomed beautifully without any apparent serious effects from the manure. The lack of flowers on the other clumps was due to damage by borers and the need of division. The answer to this lack of rot, it seems to me, is the very hot, dry spring and summer we experienced, furthered by the fact that the soil was sand.

Recently, an assistant and I inspected all these iris and found no rot on the more recently planted smaller clumps—VENUS DE MILO, CALIFORNIA GOLD, MISSOURI, and KING MIDAS. The manure was still in large chunks in places on top of the clumps; in other words, directly on top of the rhizomes. A large clump of DAUNTLESS, badly in need of dividing, showed very little signs of rot in spite of the fact that the rhizomes were three deep. However, it was very badly damaged by borers and wire-worms. The damage showed on all sections of the rhizomes.

I, too, am under the impression that borers in themselves do not cause rot; they make an excellent job of cleaning up the rhizome. Nevertheless, if the weather is wet, this damage might turn to rot. Mr. Bent's experience has been that rot does not start on the cut end in a "healthy, well-hardened plant of a constitutionally strong variety." This is contrary to my experience. If we could trace all our iris' parentage to prove what is a "constitutionally strong variety" (just what does that mean?), we might make progress, provided all the breeders would religiously follow our efforts and use only those recommended.

I find that one of the danger periods for rot is when I divide, or move, or set in, new rhizomes. I water meagerly at the time of planting and even dip the new rhizomes into bichloride of mercury and disinfect all other clumps. However, in spite of my precautions, I have found that at times rot will set in at the cut end. The usual time for this work is July. Now, does this tend to show that the iris is *weakened* or hardened by dividing?

Of course, we can quibble over what is, and what is not, a "strong" iris. It seems to me that this reasoning is far too complicated for the average person to follow. Until we can isolate the cause of this weakness that tends to cause rot, the best policy is to play safe. Since we have no control over the weather, the answer

to maintaining a healthy condition in our gardens seems to be moderation in the use of fertilizers and medium to shallow planting with full exposure to the sun. The last is very important for it influences to a large degree the clearing up of rot. It is hardly necessary to mention good drainage for without that, we cannot grow our favorite flower.

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## NEW IRIS PLANTINGS IN NEW YORK CITY

■ DURING THE past summer two notable new public plantings of bearded iris were undertaken in greater New York. One was made at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the other in the Tudor City development on East 42nd Street.

At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden the planting of tall bearded iris was carried out under the direction of Dr. George M. Reed in beds laid out on the Esplanade of the garden. Preliminary preparations were made as early as April with the setting out of two double rows of Japanese cherry trees, variety Kwanzan. The trees in each double row were about 24 feet apart, the rows being approximately the same distance from each other. Altogether, a total of 76 trees were planted to provide a suitable setting.

Between the cherry trees in each row, beds 8x16 feet were made ready for tall bearded iris, a total of 72 beds being available. Then three varieties were planted in a bed, each variety being represented usually by 18 rhizomes. For example, a white or yellow variety was planted in the center and then flanked by varieties in other colors such as red-purple, blue-purple, or blends. As far as possible regard was paid to the height of varieties and time of flowering in working out the planting scheme.

Approximately half of the 210 varieties used in the beds were taken from the older plantings of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Some of these date back to the late 1920's for their introduction but were still deemed valuable for their landscape value. The other half of the beds contains more recent varieties. Two beds were reserved for rhizomes of newly introduced iris of which there are 72 varieties each, represented by two plants. When these increase changes will be made in the original arrangement.

The planting of tall bearded iris at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden was made possible by rhizomes generously contributed by many well known commercial dealers and individuals including several directors of the Society.

Noted for its annual spring displays of tulips before the outbreak of the present war, Tudor City on East 42nd Street, New York, has this year substituted bearded iris in the beds formerly occupied by the tulips. This large planting has been made in the north park at Prospect place under the supervision of the resident horticulturist, Fred Slyper. This rectangular park extending the full width of a city block is almost completely enclosed by an iron fence, privet hedge, and then a border of two rows of bearded iris—dwarf iris in front of tall bearded varieties.

In the lawns near both ends of the park are large E-shaped beds about 8 feet across which are planted with bearded iris; for the most part in solid blocks of varieties of one color, though a portion of the beds is devoted to smaller numbers of rhizomes of recently introduced iris. The park is pleasantly landscaped with trees and shrubs and the mass planting of iris should produce an effective result, particularly in the second year.

It will be interesting to watch the performance of the bearded iris here in the heart of New York on a strip of land flanked by tall apartment buildings—whether they will bloom properly in this location and whether they will be fully appreciated by the residents. If the experiment proves successful, we understand the management of Tudor City will look favorably on a projected plan to convert the planting into a real display garden of good new iris. The rhizomes now planted were donated by a number of iris fanciers.

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## SCHEDULE 1943 ANNUAL MEETING

- The Executive Committee of the Society has decided to accept the invitation of the Sioux City members to hold the Annual Meeting in 1943 at Sioux City, Iowa. Dates and details will be announced later.

## OUR MEMBERS WRITE

### *Mr. Caparne's Hybridizing*

■ THE *Review of Intermediates* in the April BULLETIN of the A.I.S. refers to the late Mr. W. J. Caparne. About 12 years ago, he attended the dinner in London of our Iris Society and was asked to say something about his early work on the iris which we know as intermediates.

It was evident that he had only a vague recollection of what he had done. The one point on which he was definite was that his aim was a red iris. He could not remember what material he used. Certain iris were brought on under glass. A species which he used he never saw in the present day. After a period he disposed of his iris, some of them to a firm in Germany. He believed that many of them were brought back to England.

He was asked if he could account for the wonderfully floriferous habit which is possessed by practically all the group, but he could throw no light on the matter.

*Henley-on-Thames, England*

C. W. CHRISTIE-MILLER.

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### *Suggests Iris As National Flower*

■ SOME TWENTY years ago, Portland, Ore., told the world that Portland was the rose city and the members of the Rose Society called themselves "rosarians." Later, Nashville, Tenn., became known as The Iris City when the iris was adopted as the city flower. Rose and iris festivals are held in these cities each year as the people set aside one to three days to worship at the shrine of these beautiful flowers.

But other cities are not lagging in an acknowledgment of the beauty of the iris, for now Grand Rapids, Mich., and Griffin, Ga., have told the world that they are the iris cities and have adopted the iris as the civic flower. Some years ago I published an article in the BULLETIN under the title "We Are Irisarians," and now the members of the Iris Society of Grand Rapids have become the iris-

arians of that city. In each of these cities official iris gardens have been established under city park management, and the originators of iris are invited to contribute their varieties to these gardens with the understanding that the increase therefrom will not be sold or given away, but will be used to further the beauty of the cities. Here is an opportunity for all iris originators to contribute to the beauty of America and to make known to the world the work which they are doing to make a more beautiful America. That such gifts are appreciated is shown by the fact that I received 14 cards of thanks in one day from the irisarians of Grand Rapids for some rhizomes that I had contributed.

America has no national flower. No other flower is as great a success as the iris. So let us make it the national flower of the country.

HOWARD WEED.

*Beaverton, Ore.*

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### *More Descriptions Wanted*

■ THE APRIL BULLETIN reached me recently, and I was very much interested in Mr. C. G. White's proposal to institute a "proof of the pudding" for iris. From my own experience, which is that of a person living far from nurseries who is seldom able to see a new variety before ordering it, the "proof of the pudding" has been a most valuable help, and I never sit down to make out a rose order without consulting it. Without its abundant testimony, I should not have had such magnificent roses as Christopher Stone, Texas Centennial, etc. Years ago I regularly ordered the English Gold Medal roses or those I saw at Chelsea, and I was regularly disappointed, for the awards were given to flowers forced under glass, in a cool and grey climate; out-of-doors, in Italy, the sun reduced their colors to dirty white.

The Bagatelle Gold Medal really means something, as does the newer Roman Colle Oppio one, for the plants are grown out-of-doors for two years.

Now, iris are not roses and are not grown under glass, but if I could read six or eight descriptions of a variety, from as many differ-

ent zones, it would help me far more than reading that it has a rating of 98. Indeed, ever since I saw LENT A. WILLIAMSON rated above 90 several years ago, that number has meant less than nothing to me.

Varietal notes are helpful, although they overwork "breath-taking," and, to judge by their comments, the experts must be half suffocated in a fine garden; but an iris "proof of the pudding" would be really valuable.

MARY SENNI.

*Arezzo, Italy*

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*Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Kellogg announce the arrival of a new iris enthusiast, Theodore M. Kellogg, born on November 11, 1941*

## THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Membership is by the CALENDAR year. Annual Membership is three dollars; Triennial Membership is eight dollars and fifty cents; Life Membership is fifty dollars.

Make your check or money order payable to the American Iris Society and send to Mr. Howard Watkins, Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

## COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY

All of the dealers listed below are members of The American Iris Society. If you are buying Iris for your garden, it should be your particular pleasure to make your purchases from the dealers who have worked with and supported your society. Your officers and directors invite your particular attention to this list. They also ask a favor. When you order, tell the dealer you saw his name in the BULLETIN and do him a favor by not asking for a catalog unless you mean business.

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Every peony lover should have this manual with supplement, bound in one book, as it is an encyclopedia of peony knowledge obtainable from no other sources. Manual originally sold for \$6.00 Present price far under cost of production. If you are looking for a real bargain, here's your chance. Don't hesitate. They are going fast at this price. Circular on request.

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY  
NORTHBROOK, ILL.

## American Lily Yearbook

Each year the members of the American Iris Society read page after page of varietal notes about iris until they must find themselves in more or less of a whirl to keep each variety sharply defined in their minds. There is nothing better to clear one's mind than a look at something else. Here is your chance. It's a bargain, too. For only \$1.00 postpaid, you get all the essential data for one year that you might if you joined a Lily Society and paid three! Can you resist it?

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